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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-181 *19 September 1994*

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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 13 Sep

NC1609194794

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 13 September issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Iranian Delegate Comments on Muslims' Participation in ICPD
2. Egyptian NGO's Present Paper on Women's Role in Development
3. Muslim Ulema View Egyptians' Role in ICPD
4. Article Commends Muslims' Participation in ICPD
5. Muslim Preacher Calls For Reviving, Purifying Culture
6. Mosques Director Notes Women's Role in Islam
7. Al-Azhar Shaykh Views Islam's Justice, Equality
8. Muslim Scholars Discuss Empowerment of Women

IRANIAN DELEGATE COMMENTS ON MUSLIMS' PARTICIPATION IN ICPD

In an approximately 500-word interview on page 3, Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, Iranian chief delegate to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), discusses the role of Arab and Islamic delegations at the conference which concluded in Cairo on Tuesday, 13 September.

He says Arab and Islamic countries' "solidarity, unity, and aloofness from political and religious differences" led to their success in "confronting attempts to push through some immoral articles in the ICPD document that destroy religious and moral values." He notes that Islamic countries should seek unity to face challenges that confront the Islamic nation and "threaten its survival." He also blames the countries that failed to attend the conference.

EGYPTIAN NGO'S PRESENT PAPER ON WOMEN'S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT

A 120-word report on page 3 on the ICPD says the Egyptian Nongovernmental Organizations' (NGO's) document presented to the NGO's forum on behalf of 450 civilian societies was welcomed because it contained "constructive points asserting women's role in social development."

The document, the report adds, included several points. Most importantly, it stated that sex education must be in line with Islamic teachings and social traditions and that circumcision of young females, which harms their health, should be reconsidered.

MUSLIM ULEMA VIEW EGYPLTIANS' ROLE IN ICPD

A 280-word report on the same page compiled by Muhammad al-Abnudi says: "Muslim ulema affirmed that the Egyptian delegation, in cooperation with other Islamic delegates at the ICPD, dealt seriously and efficiently with the positions that contravene the tolerant Islamic shari'ah, especially those that concern Islamic values and principles."

ARTICLE COMMENDS MUSLIMS' PARTICIPATION IN ICPD

Page 6 features an approximately 360-word article by Basyuni al-Halawani headlined "The ICPD and Lessons Learned by the Muslims."

The author says despite negative stands by some Islamic countries, Egypt, in cooperation with participating Islamic countries, managed to express its views and highlight "our Islamic stand" on widely controversial issues raised before and during the conference. He adds that the participating Islamic delegations confronted the ideas and proposals that contradict religious values and virtuous morals. He goes on to say that the Islamic side, led by Egypt, had the greatest role in amending the conference document to combat "weird ideas" and assert respect for religious values.

Noting that the Vatican attacked the conference even before it convened and yet sent a delegation to attend, the author asks whether the Muslims will learn this lesson and think hard before making any decision in the future. Finally, he says: "We need conscious Islamic minds that read the real situation well and draw away from bigotry and illusions that have been dominating the Muslims for a long time."

MUSLIM PREACHER CALLS FOR REVIVING, PURIFYING CULTURE

Muslim preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali writes an approximately 400-word article on page 6 about virtues, culture, and individuals' role in promoting religious values.

He says: "I feel these days that we are in dire need of reviving, purifying, and expanding the scope of our own culture because the persistent cultural colonialism succeeded in damaging our moral character and leading thousands and thousands of people away from our teachings, religious practices, and morals."

MOSQUES DIRECTOR NOTES WOMEN'S ROLE IN ISLAM

'AQIDATI publishes on the same page an approximately 350-word commentary by Hamdi Ayyub Salim, "director general of the government mosques," on women's standing in Islam. He says: "Islam has liberated women and restored their dignity and standing. In the Greek and Roman times, a woman used to be a slave in her parents' and husband's homes and had no right to ownership."

Then he compares that situation with her standing in Islam "which made women and men equal in moral and financial rights and duties, except in minor areas dictated by the distinct differences between a man and

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woman." He notes that women in the Prophet's era used to participate in battles, nurse the wounded, and attend to other needs.

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH VIEWS ISLAM'S JUSTICE, EQUALITY

In an approximately 500-word article on page 7, al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haq comments on justice under Islam. He says the entire Islamic shari'ah is based on justice, mercy, and wisdom and that justice is not just one of Islam's pillars but also "the highest example of Islam's great facts and values that have been promoted among the people in 28 verses of the Koran."

MUSLIM SCHOLARS DISCUSS EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Pages 12 and 13 of 'AQIDATI feature an approximately 1,400-word report containing the views of several Muslim scholars on the rights and standing of women in Islam in light of the phrase "Empowerment of Women" contained in the ICPD document.

Prominent Egyptian Muslim scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Sha'rawi voices his opinion, saying women's rights are established in Islam, and there is no way of denying them. He adds that no one should take the view that women are only "obedient subordinates" under Islam because they can also be "obeyed if they have a sound opinion and great wisdom."

"Islamic scholar" Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah says: "We want women's liberalization to be based on Islam, not on the Western style which views the woman as a commodity, a tough Spartan woman, or a prostitute." We seek a role for women that maintains an Islamic style, integrating her with the man and distinguishing her from him at the same time."

For his part, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali rejects the ICPD document's phrase "Empowerment of Women." He says: "Under Islam, women are men's sisters, and men and women have "mutual rights and are equally dignified."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 13 Sep

NC1709133894

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 13 September issue of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Chief Editor Says ICPD Will Help IMF Control Economic Reform
2. West Said Opposed to Third World Prosperity, Strength
3. ICPD Side Effects Feared
4. Violations of Shari'ah Seen in ICPD Document
5. ICPD 'Ulterior Aims' Viewed
6. Brotherhood Member Denounces Exclusion From Politics
7. Columnist Discusses Detentions, Torture Under Mubarak

CHIEF EDITOR SAYS ICPD WILL HELP IMF CONTROL EGYPTIAN REFORMS

AL-SHA'B devotes part of its coverage, including chief editor Ahmad Majdi Husayn's article, to the just concluded UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Husayn's 600-word article, published on pages 1 and 7 under the heading "It Was Really a Conference on Abortion," faults the ICPD's failure to discuss economic development and its relationship with population, which should have been the focus of the discussions. He declares that most of the debates focused on abortion, free sexual relations, and the attendant use of contraceptives, and even tackled Islamic inheritance laws.

He says: "The document's sweet talk about economic development was more a literary composition or preamble than anything else. The main objective was to halt the growing population, in real and relative terms, of the developing southern part of the world, notably the Islamic world. The Western countries imagine that this population increase is a strategic threat to their economic and military dominance. They believe that any method may be used to halt this growth, regardless of religious or legal scruples."

He concludes by saying that the conference's document will allow the IMF to impose on Egypt the population issue "as one of the factors affecting the so-called economic reform process" for the next 20 years.

WEST SAID OPPOSED TO THIRD WORLD PROSPERITY, STRENGTH

Another article on the ICPD is by Layth Shubaylat, a Jordanian Islamist, former member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association, and chairman of the Society Opposed to Zionism and Racism. The 1,500-word article, under the heading "The Racist West Considers Development an Aggression Against Itself," begins with this translated quote from a message by Hitler's chief aide Martin Bormann to Alfred Rosenberg, then minister in charge of the East: "If girls and women in the occupied areas carry out abortions, we can only see that as a good thing. In the Fuhrer's view, one must permit the trade in contraceptives in the occupied areas to flourish."

Shubaylat says he sees a similarity between this attitude and Chapter 10, clause 7 and Chapter 11, clause 7 of the ICPD document.

He remarks that the West fears a strong, progressive, and populous Third World, and this is why it seeks to keep the developing world burdened by debts and locked in a client relationship with the rich world by encouraging poor countries to follow "policies of destruction and

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false development and social theories rife with criminality." He addresses the developing world: "O societies targeted for murder and mass extermination. O sleepers dreaming of development. The racist West rejects real economic development and regards it as an aggression against itself because it encourages optimism about the future and raises health and nutritional standards, thus encouraging procreation. Procreation coupled with progress creates strength—strength is not allowed."

He attacks Western countries for blocking the developing world's access to modern technology—saying that this explains their hostility to Iraq—and for trying to undermine the family unit under the pretense of defending women's rights.

He says their current financial, environmental, population, and human rights policies are designed to reduce the world's population to 2 billion people, mostly belonging to the "advanced ethnic groups."

He says the Western countries exploit the environmental issue to prevent the Third World from using its own resources, forgetting that it was they who spoiled 80 percent of the environment over the past two centuries. He faults Westerners for protecting their exploitation of resources via patents and copyrights, and disputes the theory that chlorofluorocarbons, used in refrigerators, spoil the ozone layer. He says the aim behind the chlorofluorocarbon ban is to introduce a new $200-billion refrigeration system that will benefit Western companies.

He concludes that the "new fascist government in the United Nations," by forming new economic, banking, and trade bodies seeks to enslave the world in a "new Roman system."

Shubaylat declares: "O intellectuals, this is the international order. Let us shake off our dreams of security, stability, and peace. Peace is only made by free fighters."

ICPD SIDE EFFECTS FEARED

Labor Party deputy leader Muhammad Hilmi Murad reviews the ICPD in a 3,000-word article entitled "Facts That Must Be Mentioned as We Bid Farewell to the Population Conference."

Murad faults "some of the establishment's scribes and sycophants" for continuing to blame the al-Azhar shaykhs, the Vatican, and opposition newspapers for opposing the ICPD document. He describes the position of al-Azhar and the Christian Church as "impeccable" and gives credit to opposition newspapers for forcing President Mubarak to declare that Egypt will not implement any ICPD resolutions contrary to "our religion and traditions."

Murad also blames the government for failing to solicit and obtain the People's Assembly's approval before making an agreement with the United Nations to hold the ICPD in Cairo.

He fears that the ICPD will have "serious side effects" in the form of greater sexual license, adolescents' right to secrecy about their private lives, and the abduction and rape of young women.

VIOLATIONS OF SHARI'AH SEEN IN ICPD DOCUMENT

A 150-word report on page 1 cites Dr. 'Abd-al-Hayy al-Faramawi, professor of Koranic interpretation and Koranic disciplines at al-Azhar University, as listing 10 violations of Islamic shari'ah in the ICPD document, namely "disregarding religion and ignoring heavenly values, regarding human beings as market commodities subject to the law of supply and demand, calling for the abolition of inheritance [laws], seeking to demolish the family by recognizing other illegitimate unions, discarding fathers' authority over their children and failing to impose moral supervision over them, protecting adolescents of both sexes when they want to practice sex, raising the minimum legal age for marriage by opposing early marriage, permitting fornication and abolishing the laws against it, permitting abortion, and reducing births under the pretext of a lack of resources."

ICPD 'ULTERIOR AIMS' VIEWED

In his regular Tuesday column, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy General Guide Mustafa Mashhur discusses the ulterior aims behind the ICPD. Under the heading "The Population Conference: Let Us Have a Full and Profound Perspective," Mashhur says that the Jewish-influenced West seeks to corrupt the developing world, plunder its resources, and burden it with debt.

In his 2,000-word article he says: "Behind this conference stands the Jewish lobby that influences Western countries—notably the United States. The Jews do not pursue humanity's good but seek only their own good and hide behind the United States and others. As the Koran states, they are the corrupters."

He notes that people were created to be God's heirs on earth and must follow God's teachings, including procreation, to be happy in this world and the afterlife. He warns of moral dissolution and predicts the West's downfall because its nations "do not adhere to any heavenly law and live a material life full of physical lusts."

He advises Muslims to cling to Islamic teachings to "repel these onslaughts on Islam."

Mashhur also counsels: "We must also protect our societies from the media that attack Islam and Islamic teachings and spread corruption and debauchery."

BROTHERHOOD MEMBER DENOUNCES EXCLUSION FROM POLITICS

Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, former People's Assembly member "for the Muslim Brotherhood," in a 1,500-word article on page 6 entitled "An Insidious Call for Political

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Exclusion," defends the right of the Muslim Brotherhood to be included in the mainstream political establishment. He criticizes the governmental "Political Parties Committee" that hinders the formation of new political parties.

He begins his article by referring to current heated debates over the newly proposed parliamentary election system and declares that a prominent topic discussed behind the scenes by the existing powers is "how to confront the growing popular support for the Islamic stream in general and the Muslim Brotherhood in particular?"

He adds that the government's objective is neither to further the march of democracy nor to ensure "sound and honest elections reflecting the true popular wish" but to prevent "the actual popular forces that have visible backing in the political arena from reaching parliament and representing the people."

Al-'Aryan refers to the Muslim Brotherhood's reputable political and unionist activities and says that they accept pluralism. In support of this argument he quotes a Muslim Brotherhood statement issued in March 1994 that says: "Hence we believe in a multiparty system in Islamic society. The authorities must not restrict the formation of political groups and parties or their activities. Every group must be left free to proclaim its platform and policies as long as Islamic shar'iah is the accepted higher standard."

COLUMNIST DISCUSSES DETENTIONS, TORTURE UNDER MUBARAK

Columnist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, in his Tuesday back-page Tuesday, questions whether Egypt has made progress on the path of liberty in Mubarak's era. In his 400-word report under the heading "Egypt's Jails Between al-Sadat and Mubarak" on page 12, he recalls former President Anwar al-Sadat's September 1981 mass arrest of opponents and his closure of opposition newspapers but says that the situation under Mubarak has not improved and might actually have deteriorated. He disputes the claim made by Mubarak loyalists that "our country is enjoying during his term unprecedented freedom" and asks: "At the beginning I wish to wonder if there is any other country in the world that has unprecedented freedom and 10,000 detainees?"

Noting that the majority of detainees belong to the Islamic movement, he rebukes the government for holding them without trial and without real evidence against them. He says continued torture in jail is "a smear of shame on the regime and proof of its failure."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Discusses Situation in Gaza-Jericho

NC1609121394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Report on "exclusive" interview with "Palestinian President" Yasir 'Arafat by the MENA correspondent in Ankara; date not given]

[Text] Ankara, 16 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Turkey, has affirmed that without Egypt and President Husni Mubarak no progress could have been made on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace talks.

In an exclusive interview with the MENA correspondent in Ankara, 'Arafat said Egypt is a full partner and that it is exerting its utmost efforts and influence to speed up the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on autonomy.

'Arafat added that he is in constant contact with President Husni Mubarak to inform him of the various situations.

'Arafat affirmed that Egypt has importance and weight in the Arab world and elsewhere. He said that no one can deny this fact.

In his interview, Yasir 'Arafat said there are some forces, particularly inside the Israeli Army, that oppose the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Therefore, they are creating daily obstacles to its implementation, as a result of which the Palestinians are suffering a great deal.

He added that among these obstacles are not yet opening the Rafah crossing point to allow Egyptian goods in. The Israeli side insists that these goods should come through Israel into Gaza.

'Arafat pointed out that he particularly discussed this issue with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during their recent meeting. He said: I asked that the borders with Egypt be opened because we would like to have freedom of movement with Egypt.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat said in his interview with the MENA correspondent in Ankara that continued settlement in Jerusalem is also considered one of the obstacles Israel is using to stop implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

He added that Israel has so far not handed over to the Palestinians the rest of the powers in the West Bank. We have only received authority in education, and that was three months late. Israel is raising obstacles to handing over the rest of the powers, particularly in the West Bank. But peace requires patience and perseverance.

'Arafat expressed regret at recent developments regarding the Paris meeting of the donor countries. He said he hopes that after his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo with the presence of the Norwegian foreign minister and a representative of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, things will go back on course. However, this will require tremendous efforts.

Yasir 'Arafat clarified in his interview that the Palestinian economy is not only starting from scratch, but well below that. The infrastructure of the Palestinian economy was wiped out completely.

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He said that in the Gaza Strip, for example, the number of hospital beds has not increased at all since the time of the occupation. In fact, the contrary is true. The Israelis closed down some hospitals. The same applies to schools, sewage systems, and all public facilities.

The Palestinian president added: There is nothing that does not have problems. Therefore, the Palestinian economy needs support, and huge efforts must be poured into it.

He expressed his hope that the other countries will stand alongside the Palestinians so that they are able to confront these difficult circumstances.

He said the Palestinian passport has been finalized. He pointed out that it will be issued at the end of September.

On the progress in the other Arab-Israeli negotiation tracks, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat said that recent signs are that some progress has taken place on the Syrian-Israeli track, as well as on the Lebanese-Israeli track. He expressed hopes that tension in the Middle East region will end soon and that peace will prevail throughout the region.

He said that Turkey will participate in the peace-keeping forces in the region.

'Arafat added that Turkish Prime Minister Mrs. Tansu Ciller promised him she will visit the liberated Palestinian territories at the beginning of November. He expressed his hopes that Turkey will participate in bolstering the peace process, particularly since Turkey is a big power in the region and has many of the important keys.

'Arafat Orders Preparations To Amend Covenant

TA1609135794 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Sep 94 p 7

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the PLO Central Council to convene a Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting to amend the Palestinian Covenant according to the PLO guarantee to Israel.

'Arafat ordered the council to convene during the meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo before Yom Kippur. During the meeting the two solved the donor countries' funds allocation problem, after 'Arafat retracted his demand that East Jerusalem be also included in this framework.

Peres and 'Arafat also agreed that negotiations on elections in the territories will start on 28 September in a committee headed by Nabil Sha'th and Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories. During the committee's discussions Israel will provide an answer to the election proposal submitted by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the Palestinian official in charge of the issue.

It has been learned that Israel opposes many clauses in 'Urayqat's proposal, among them the Palestinian demand to hold—in addition to elections for an executive branch—elections for a "Parliament". Israel also opposes granting a place for Palestinian refugees from 1967 in various elective bodies, and allowing East Jerusalem residents to be elected to various posts. In addition, Israel objects to the Palestinian demand to organize and conduct the elections alone, without Israeli participation.

'Arafat again promised Peres that he would do everything he can to prevent attacks against Israelis. He said eight Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders are under detention in Gaza, adding that the identity of one of the assailants who murdered the two Israelis in Ramla is known to the Palestinian police. "Once we apprehend the one we will apprehend the other," 'Arafat told Peres.

During the meeting, Peres did not allow 'Arafat to dodge the issue of his commitment to convene the PNC. When Peres raised the issue 'Arafat said Israel is preventing many PNC members from entering the Gaza Strip.

Peres told 'Arafat that when the PNC is convened, Israel will permit all its members to enter the Gaza Strip. 'Arafat insisted that Israel allow them to enter whenever they want. Peres answered: "Whenever the PNC is convened all its members will be allowed entry."

'Arafat Reports to PNA on Visits, Departs for Cairo

JN1709173894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'un in Gaza]

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has chaired the weekly meeting of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] held in Gaza at noon today. The meeting discussed the latest political developments.

The ministers heard a detailed report read by president 'Arafat on his visits to Oslo, Turkey, and Tashkent, and the agreement signed by the president and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo. The agreement was approved.

They also heard a detailed report on the results of the Arab League Council meetings, especially those related to Jerusalem. The meeting also discussed various reports on the ministries, and the meeting of the Palestinian economic council, PECDAR, which will be held in Cairo next Sunday. The meeting also discussed the continuation of international assistance to the PNA, as well as the subject of employees appointed by the Ministry of Education.

Minister of Local Government Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said it was agreed to continue negotiations on the holding of legislative elections on 28 September. He said nine

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elections offices were opened, three in the Gaza Strip, and seven regional offices in the West Bank. [numbers as heard]

Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, minister of sports and youth, said that budgets of the ministries were approved. The ministries' budget for the next four months are estimated at approximately $135 million.

Dr. al-Shu'aybi added that it was agreed to send delegations to certain Arab countries to discuss cooperation.

Minister al-Shu'aybi said that it is important to hold a Palestinian-Jordanian meeting on the Palestinian Ministry of Awqaf's assumption of authority and the limits of its responsibilities.

Yasir 'Amr, minister of education and higher education, said a committee was formed from the Finance Ministry, the Ministry of Justice, and the Civil Service Office to discuss the affairs of employees who were fired by the Israeli occupation authorities on security pretexts. This committee will present a report to the Finance Ministry at the next meeting.

On the closure of Jericho by the Israeli authorities, Minister al-Shu'aybi said: We asked the Liaison Committee to convey our rejection of this unjustified closure to the Israeli Government.

Minister of Housing Dr. Zakariya al-Agha denied press reports which said that Minister Economy and Trade Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', has tendered his resignation, and added what has been said about this is untrue.

Following the meeting, President 'Arafat left the Gaza Strip for Cairo to meet with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Egyptian officials. He will acquaint them with the results of visits to Oslo, Tahskent, and Turkey, and the agreement he signed with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo on expediting implementation of the agreement signed by the two sides.

Returns to Gaza From Egypt

JN1809193394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland this afternoon, having concluded a 24-hour working visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

His excellency the president met this morning with his brother, His Excellency President Husni Mubarak. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the Palestinian territories and the details of the talks held recently in Oslo between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

The meeting was attended by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestine's ambassador and Fatah's representative in Cairo and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

President 'Arafat arrived in Cairo yesterday evening. He was received by the Egyptian foreign minister, the Palestinian Embassy staff, and the Palestinian community in Cairo.

Immediately after his arrival, his excellency received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at the Guest House in Misr al-Jadidah. They reviewed the developments of the Palestine question in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas.

The meeting was attended by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, ambassador of Palestine and representative of Fatah in Cairo; and Muhammad Subayh, Palestinian ambassador to the Arab League.

His Excellency President 'Arafat yesterday evening chaired a meeting of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction [PECDAR], during which the conferees discussed the strategy of development work in the Palestinian territories, setting up public and private development institutions, as well as future prospects for the Palestinian economy.

Conflicting Reports Surround Quray' Resignation

Different Sources Deny, Confirm

MM1609125594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Conflicting Reports About Abu-'Ala' Resignation From Economy 'Ministry'"]

[Excerpt] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT an assistant to Palestinian Economy Minister Ahmad Quray'—"Abu-'Ala'"—declined to deny or confirm the report that Abu-'Ala' has submitted his resignation from his post in the Palestinian Authority in the self-rule areas. He just said: "There is not a resignation in the real sense of the word."

But another Palestinian source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Abu-'Ala' has indeed submitted his resignation from the authority. The source attributed the resignation to differences between him and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat over a number of issues, management methods, and 'Arafat's interference in all matters. The source added: "I do not know whether or not Abu-'Ala' has backtracked on his resignation."

Meanwhile Zakariyya al-Agha, housing minister in the authority, has denied any knowledge of an official resignation submitted by Abu-'Ala', stressing that there are no problems inside the National Authority.

A Palestinian source in Amman told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Abu-'Ala' submitted his resignation a few days ago. The source attributed the resignation to 'Arafat's practices and his monopolization of decisionmaking, and also to differences over development plans in the self-rule areas. According to the Amman source,

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Abu-'Ala' had drawn up a comprehensive development plan for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but 'Arafat insisted on a development plan for the Gaza Strip only, attributing this to the lack of the money needed to implement a comprehensive plan. [passage omitted]

Quray' Confirms Resignation

TA1609124594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], who holds the economic portfolio in the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA], is resigning as a result of differences with Yasir 'Arafat with regard to economic issues under his authority.

Abu-'Ala' confirmed to our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that he had asked 'Arafat to relieve him of his duties as he was no longer interested in the job. He stressed that he would not participate in tomorrow's weekly session of the PA.

Yesterday, Abu-'Ala's associates said that his criticism of the economic situation in the autonomous areas was directed against 'Arafat who had concentrated all power in his hands and was demanding that every decision first receive his prior approval.

Quray' Declines To Confirm, Deny

JN1609171394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Ahmad Quray', minister of economy in the Palestinian National Authority, has declined to deny or confirm that he has tendered his resignation. In a terse statement to the Voice of Palestine, Quray' said he would rather not comment on such reports now.

It is to be noted that Quray' and Israel's Avraham Shohat signed an economic agreement in Paris last April between the National Authority and Israel

Quray' Denies Resigning

TA1609180194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', has denied reports to the effect that he resigned from his post as the official responsible for the economic portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority. In a statement to our correspondent Fayiz 'Umar, he said that he will retain his post in order to fulfill the task of drawing up an effective economic policy for his country.

'Ashrawi, PLO 'Official' on Quray'

JN1609112294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Sep 94 pp 1, 27

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—AL-RA'Y—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi has neither confirmed nor denied that Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala, economy minister in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has tendered his resignation. In a telephone interview AL-RA'Y conducted with her in Jerusalem, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: There are problems within the PNA, particularly in the economic field, that need viable solutions.

A Palestinian official in the occupied territory said Quray' recently tendered his resignation from the PNA. The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said in a statement to QUDS PRESS that Quray'—who took part in the secret Oslo talks and who is a strong supporter of the Declaration of Principles with Israel—resigned in protest of what the Palestinian official described as 'Arafat's manipulation of economic decisions within the PNA.

The Palestinian official said 'Arafat's insistence on financing Palestinian projects in Jerusalem at the donor states conference aroused Quray's resentment. The official said Quray' expressed his belief that the PNA must focus on receiving financial aid instead of expanding the conflict over the future of the holy city at the present time.

Quray' tendered his resignation a few hours before the beginning of the donor states conference scheduled to be held in Paris last week. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the PNA, led the Palestinian delegation to the Paris conference instead of Quray'.

The PLO official revealed a second reason for Quray's resignation. He said Quray' resigned because one of his aides in the PLO Economic Department was arrested. The PLO official said the Palestinian police arrested Hasan al-Khatib, an official at the PLO Finance Department in Jordan and a member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. The Palestinian official said al-Khatib's arrest could have been for financial reasons, but he refused to give more details. The official said PNA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has not announced his stand on the resignation, adding that attempts are in progress to convince Quray' to rescind his resignation. [passage omitted]

Quray' 'Offers To Resign'

MS1709093694 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 17 Sep 94 p 4

[Report on telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', PA "minister of economics and trade," by David Horovitz on 16 September; place not given: "Palestinian Economics Chief Offers To Resign Over Funding"]

[Text] Jerusalem—Mr. Ahmad Quray', minister of economics and trade in the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] running self-rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, yesterday expressed grave pessimism over the future of the autonomy process and indicated he was on the point of resigning.

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In a telephone interview with the Financial Times, Mr. Quray', who is also known as Abu-'Ala', responded to reports that he had already submitted his resignation to the PLO chairman, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, by saying: "I am still not resigned officially. The final decision will come in two or three days."

He added that he would not be attending today's weekly meeting of the PNA in Gaza. Palestinian sources suggested that Mr. Quray' might have filed a letter of resignation, and was now awaiting Mr. 'Arafat's reaction.

Mr. Quray' was arguably the key Palestinian architect of the Israel-PLO autonomy accords, leading Palestinian delegates through the months of secret talks in Oslo that preceded the official signing ceremony at the White House just over a year ago.

He is respected by both Israeli economic officials and international donors, and his departure would be a painful blow for Mr. 'Arafat personally and for the fragile autonomy process, which is already being undermined by the non-arrival of hundreds of millions of dollars of pledged international aid.

Mr. Quray' is known to hold Mr. 'Arafat responsible for some of the funding shortages, complaining privately that the PLO chairman is scaring off would-be donors by insisting on personally overseeing the disbursement of funds rather than establishing fully accountable institutions to perform the job.

In a veiled attack on Mr. 'Arafat yesterday, he said Japan, Gulf countries, the west and other donors "want to help the Palestinian cause" but were withholding promised funds "because they want institutions to deal with". He noted that "no more than $50m" had been received so far, out of $2.5bn in aid pledges.

That lack of money, combined with the slow-moving pace of the autonomy process, he said, left him "very pessimistic".

He said that, under the terms of the autonomy accords, the Israeli army should by now have redeployed away from Palestinian population centres in the West Bank, that the Israeli civil administration in the occupied territories ought to have been dismantled, and that preparations should have been well in hand for democratic Palestinian elections.

Palestinian Police Officer Killed in Hamas Clash

2 'Fundamentalists' Wounded, Captured

NC1809094694 Paris AFP in English 0820 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 18 (AFP)—A Palestinian police officer died during a shoot out Sunday [18 September] with two Moslem fundamentalists who were both wounded, witnesses told AFP.

He was the first Palestinian officer to die in fighting between Palestinians since autonomy was launched on the Gaza Strip in May.

Yusri al-Hams, 45, a lieutenant-colonel, died during an attempt to arrest two wanted members of the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Backed by a sizeable number of police, he tried to persuade the two men to surrender, but shooting began and he died on the spot, at the border town of Rafah, the witnesses said.

One of the fundamentalists was seriously wounded and taken to Khan Yunus hospital, doctors said. The second man, who was lightly hurt, was caught at the same hospital where he sought treatment.

Two Hamas men who turned up to visit their comrades were also detained, doctors told AFP.

However Hamas, which bitterly opposed limited autonomy, issued a statement denying their men fired at the police and demanded their release, warning of "negative consequences".

The pair were not armed, according to the statement, which demanded an autopsy on the officer and ballistics tests to see who fired the bullets.

Palestinian police refused to comment on the shooting, which came after a renewed pledge from PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat last Tuesday to clamp down on violence spearheaded by Hamas. [passage omitted]

Three More Hamas Members Detained

TA1809113094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The Palestinian police this morning detained three Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads members, among them the Hamas commander in Khan Yunus. The three were detained while visiting a terrorist who was wounded in the incident last night in which a Palestinian police officer was killed by gunfire. Senior Hamas members fear that the detention wave will be resumed, this time among Hamas' military arm.

PNA Police Chief Confirms Incident

JN1809201594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Yusri Darwish al-Hams was martyred and his nephew was slightly wounded in a shoot-out between the Palestinian National Security Forces and an armed group belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Tall al-Sultan area in Rafah last night. Two members of the armed group were wounded and arrested.

Major General Nasr Yusuf, director general of the Public Security and Police Force in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has issued a statement mourning the

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hero martyr and appealing to the Palestinian masses to support the National Security Forces in their task to arrest the culprits and bring them to trial.

Yusuf called on the Palestinian people to achieve national unity and act with a sense of national responsibility in these fateful circumstances our people face. He said the security forces and the police will punish the culprits by resorting to the law and justice.

Autopsy: Officer Shot by Fellow Police

TA1909104694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] The results of the autopsy of Yusri al-Hams, the Palestinian police officer killed during the clash in Rafah between Palestinian security personnel and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists indicate that he was struck by shots fired by his fellow officers.

Our correspondents Dani Zaqen and Yoni Ben-Menahem received this information from Palestinian sources. Nevertheless, this report has still not been officially confirmed.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is demanding an independent investigation into the matter and is insisting that the results be published expeditiously. The heads of the Palestinian police had earlier claimed that the officer had been shot by Hamas members.

Israel Allows 35, Bans 15 Fatah Council Members Entry

TA1709125394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Israel has allowed 35 members of the Fatah Revolutionary Council to return to Israel, but has banned the entry of another 15 council members who are either part of Fatah's terrorist apparatus or are opposed to the Oslo agreement, Fatah sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem. The Fatah Revolutionary Council is composed of 180 members, and about 40 of them have so far moved to the autonomy.

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Algeria

U.S., UK Envoys Present Credentials

LD1809143694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Report on meetings between Algerian President Liamine Zeroual and British Ambassador Christopher Donald Crabbie and U.S. Ambassador Ronald Neumann on 18 September in Algiers—recorded; Crabbie's remarks are in French with superimposed translation into Arabic, Neumann's remarks are in English with superimposed translation into Arabic; italicized passages in English]

[Text] [Announcer] President Liamine Zeroual received at the Presidency this morning the letters of credence of the ambassadors of Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. After the audience, British Ambassador Christopher Donald Crabbie, made the following statement:

[Crabbie] This appointment is not only a great honor but it is also a source of profound satisfaction because it marks my return to Algeria after a 20-year absence. I have already had the opportunity to pay several visits to this beautiful country in the 1970s. Therefore, I am very happy to have been given the opportunity to return and I consider myself privilged to carry out my mission in Algeria at a decisive period in your country's history.

We in Britain, with our European partners and the G-7 member states, have followed the events taking place in Algeria with great attention and sympathy, and we wish the Algerian people success in achieving a peaceful and prosperous future.

Ties between our two countries have existed for a long time. Algeria and Britain often share the same objectives in the field of foreign affairs and have a similar approach to international problems. Above all, our two countries play a major role in international affairs and have contributed to settling international disputes in the Middle East and also in the world. The two sides believe in the virtues of agreements and diplomatic efforts to settle disputes peacefully. I am also convinced that bilateral exchanges and talks in this respect will be beneficial to our two countries. Hence, my mission as ambassador of Britain and Northern Ireland will be to deepen and bolster relations between our two countries in the field of foreign affairs and also in cultural and economic affairs. I will endeavor, with my government, to strengthen cooperation with Algeria now that it has embarked on the economic reforms it introduced. I pledge to do my utmost to deepen cooperation, encourage entente, and reinforce the ties of friendship that have always characterized our bilateral relations.

[Announcer] For his part, U.S. Ambassador Ronald Neumann made the following statement after handing his letters of credence to the head of state:

[Neumann] It is with great pleasure that I presented my letters of credence to His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual. I now take up my duties as ambassador of the United States to the democratic and popular Republic of Algeria. I am proud to be part of the long tradition that has linked our two great nations and peoples. The United States values political and economic freedom, respect for human rights, and mutual tolerance.

We are also opposed to extremism and terrorism, which destroy the ability of a society to govern itself. We believe that a solution to the crisis in Algeria requires a credible political process that includes dialogue among all political tendencies willing to renounce terrorism and violence. My government is encouraged by recent steps in this way and hopes that all parties will participate to ensure the success of the dialogue

The United States recognizes that Algeria has taken the first important steps to liberalize its economy. We believe this policy is essential to provide and to sustain development.

I hope, as the United States does, that I will have the honor to acquaint myself with Algeria and the Algerian people and that I will have the honor to contribute and follow up my efforts under such difficult circumstances in your great history.

Government Statement Denies Moroccan Allegations

LD1709194294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] In the aftermath of what the Moroccan Interior Ministry has issued today to the effect that the two Moroccans who carried out the Atlas-Marrakech Hotel operation did so at the instigation of the Algerian security services, the Algerian Government has this afternoon issued a statement in which it categorically denied these allegations. Amal Maddah has the government statement:

[Maddah] The statement issued this afternoon by the Foreign Ministry said that the Algerian Government was surprised at the Moroccan Interior Ministry's statement, which accused Algeria's security services of untrue phrases that strangely reminded one of the statement dated 16 July 1985, which was refuted then.

The Foreign Ministry's statement added: Following a series of statements issued by the same Moroccan ministry, this new statement attempted to incite an escalation of tension for which its originators must bear the whole responsibility.

Algeria categorically refuted these baseless allegations that have recently been nourished by the infertile imagination of the Moroccan Interior Ministry, which has until now, and in the same manner, issued five contradictory statements.

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The Algerian Government has until now been waiting to receive officially the findings of the so-called investigation into this issue from the Moroccan authorities, and it had asked them for these findings on 26 August last.

Algeria confronted such allegations, which did no honor to their originators, and strongly condemned such a measure that aimed at sowing doubts about its' security services.

Moroccan Envoy Given 'Strongly-Worded Protest'

LD1709210094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Proceeding from its stance with all of its neighbors based on nonintervention in the internal affairs of each country and good neighborliness and cooperation, the Foreign Affairs Ministry today summoned the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Algeria to its headquarters and gave him a strongly-worded protest.

Dailies Reject Moroccan Accusations

LD1809170394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpt] [Announcer] [passage omitted] Correspondent Souad 'Abdelli assesses the new Moroccan allegations against Algeria:

[Abdelli] It is very clear that the Moroccan Interior Ministry's statement, which draws an imaginary conclusion implicating the Algerian security services, falls into the trap of flagrant contradictions. After the Moroccan interior minister himself declared that the Marrakech hotel affair was linked to organized crime and had to be seen in the context of an international criminal network, his ministry issues a statement void of convincing elements and supported only by a desire to attempt an escalation of the crisis. The Foreign Ministry yesterday summoned the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Algiers and informed him that the Algerian Government was protesting against the content of the statement issued by the Moroccan Interior Ministry.

Algeria has remained loyal to the principles of the common Maghreban project for which it has and still is making continuous efforts. It has also endeavored to promote a policy of good neighborliness and cooperation. Despite all this, the Moroccan interior minister embarked upon contriving scenarios that are blatantly contradictory and which implicate the Algerian security services by using delusive terms and more. In order to establish the truth, the Algerian Government asked for details of the investigation from the Moroccan Government and has been waiting for these since 26 August.

The multitude of contradictory statements issued on the same subject highlights the weakness of the evidence fabricated by the imagination of the Moroccan Interior Ministry. This compels Algeria to realistically refute these baseless allegations, as the Algerian Foreign Ministry statement indicated yesterday.

[Announcer] Now a round-up of what the newspapers have written on the subject, with Abdelkader Djeridi:

[Djeridi] In its editorial entitled "Rabat Is Up to Its Old Tricks," the daily ESSALAM commented on the subject and wrote: Nearly a month after the Marrakech attack, which French nationals of Moroccan and Algerian origin were accused of carrying out and which was immediately followed by Rabat's unilateral decision to impose entry visas, the Moroccan Interior Ministry issued a statement on Friday evening in which it recognized that the brain behind this operation and others was originally Moroccan but that he acted at the instigation of Algerian military intelligence. ESSALAM pointed out that this gratuitous accusation was not supported by any material evidence or open confession since the mastermind is still enjoying his freedom. Even if that accusation was confirmed it would not constitute a sufficient and convincing excuse for the serious decision taken on 26 August.

ESSALAM concluded by saying: Rabat, after all these gratuitous accusations, insists on sowing hatred after it sowed hashish.

Under the headline: "Hassan II is not pleased with the relaxation of the situation in Algeria" and another: "New performance of the king's play," the daily AL-KHABAR wrote: What clear evidence did the Moroccan Interior Ministry use to consider Abdellilah Ziad, alias Rachid, and Mohamed Zine Eddine, alias Said—both accused of the recent attack on Atlas-Asni Hotel and who are still on the run—as agents of the Algerian authorities? These irresponsible statements, AL-KHABAR adds, were made in the context of the convulsion that has recently affected Algerian-Moroccan relations and also in the context of the Moroccan throne's attempts at raising the ante every time it wants to oppose an Algerian position toward the Saharan issue or any other issue that constitutes a source of disagreement between the two countries, as was the case with the Algerian state's recent decision to close the border with Morocco which threw Moroccan authorities into a cold sweat.

Al-Turabi Mediation Claim Refuted

LD1709211794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Today's daily AL-KHABAR carried statements by Sudan's Hasan al-Turabi claiming that he had contributed to bringing about a rapprochement between the Algerian authorities and the dissolved party in Algeria, and the claims were circulated by some national newspapers. But concerning these claims, an authorized Algerian source said that Sudan's Hasan al-Turabi had made groundless statements about Algeria. These statements call for categorical denial and these statements, which were preceded by other statements, reveal an intention to interfere on the part of those who have had the illusion

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that Algeria has become weak and could become the scene of their hegemonistic and expansionist objectives. All these people who make false allegations about Algeria, including al-Turabi, must definitively realize that their hopes are based on illusions and that neither the Algerian people nor its leaders accept any interference in their affairs or any harming of Algeria's sovereignty. The only conclusion that should be drawn from the lies and allegations of Hasan al-Turabi is the truth of the clear and decisive words uttered by President Liamine Zeroual during his recent visit to the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah to the attention of President 'Umar al-Bashir of Sudan. By these words President Zeroual stressed to al-Bashir that Algeria did not accept Sudanese interference in any form in Algeria's domestic affairs. Likewise, on many occasions, the head of state firmly emphasized that Algeria's problems are solved in Algeria, between the Algerians themselves, and this is a firm principle that will remain so.

In parallel to this, it is worth noting that while the head of state affirmed that the freedom and diversity of the press were considered as an achievement for an irreversible democratic option for Algeria, he underlined at the same time that this freedom of the press must be exercised away from attempts at media misrepresentation and cheating. Here one should stress the importance of this rule and the ethics of the profession, which must be adhered to.

Two HAMAS Officials Attacked; 1 Dead

LD1709131194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] We have just received the following statement from the Movement for an Islamic Society, HAMAS:

While HAMAS is endeavoring, alongside sincere patriotic and Islamic sides, to restore stability and security in our homeland and reconcile its children, two brothers—Cheikh Boudjara Soltani, member of the National Madjlis Echoura [consulative council] of Hamas Movement and founding member of the Conference of Theologians and Preachers, and Professor Ali Layeb, chairman of the Provincial Bureau of the movement in Skikda Movement and member of the National Madjlis Echoura—were the victims of an assassination attempt yesterday at around 1900 near the home of Cheikh Boudjara in Constantine.

The two brothers were transferred to a hospital, but Professor Ali Layeb died of his injuries. Cheikh Boudjara was admitted to an intensive care unit.

Following this painful tragedy, the chairman and members of the National Bureau of the movement present their sincere condolences to the family of martyr Professor Ali Layeb and to all the movement's followers. They also call on the movement's followers to pray to God to preserve Cheikh Boudjara for his mission, movement, and nation.

Elsewhere, a statement issued by the Rally for Culture and Democracy has announced that Mr. Mohand Aouchita, a party activist who was a victim of an armed attack last Wednesday, died yesterday of his injuries.

Kebir: Shura Council Must Be Allowed To Meet

JN1709080594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Interview with Rabah Kebir, "principal official of the FIS abroad" by Salim Badawi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kebir] Naturally, we were glad to see the release of some of our leaders. However, this is not enough. As far as we are concerned, the basis of our work is the letter that all the shaykhs in Blida prison sent to Mr. Zeroual on 6 September. We also take into consideration the status of the two shaykhs under house arrest. This limits their freedom. In reality, this is a transfer from one prison to another under different circumstances. They have not been pardoned. From the legal point of view, they are still required to complete their prison term. The president of the Republic has not issued an explicit statement explaining their legal status, one saying that they have been definitively and completely released.

[Badawi] Then, one can say that the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] still abides by its conditions? Can we clarify these conditions?

[Kebir] The most important point is, let me explain to you, that before this partial release took place, the shaykhs asked the authorities to release all incarcerated Shura Council members, the officials in charge of the provincial and municipal executive councils and bureaus, those held in detention camps should and the five shaykhs. This is a first step that will allow the command to meet within the framework of the FIS. However, this has not taken place. A small part of that was carried out. Therefore, there remains the most important condition, the key condition if we may say so, which is that leaders on the local level up to those on the national level should be released as a first step, along with the release of those detained in desert prisons, and enabling the shaykhs to meet with the FIS military or political cadres in and outside Algeria. This meeting will make fateful and historic decisions concerning the issue of negotiations, participating in the negotiations, and the issue of seeking a just, legitimate, and lasting solution.

[Badawi] Then, according to you, a Shura Council meeting is ruled out at the present time?

[Kebir] Yes, it is completely ruled out. So long as the two shaykhs are under house arrest, this means they are under the supervision of the authorities. The two shaykhs cannot be asked to convene a Shura Council meeting while they are still in this situation. If they meet with some of the Shura Council members, this does not solve the problem. The problem is to hold a meeting, a seminar, for all FIS military and political cadres. The

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crisis the country is facing is in reality a crisis between the military of the front and the military of the authorities.

MDA Official Discusses Latest Developments

LD1709030894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Interview with MDA representative Mohamed Dahmoun, by correspondent Nasreddine Allaoui in Algiers; date not given; from the "Meeting the Parties" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Allaoui] [passage omitted] Mr. Dahmoun, your last words may lead us to ask you the following question: Do you regard armed action as political blackmail?

[Dahmoun] I do not think so. However, the main thing is to have a democratic political climate, where there is freedom of expression and a climate based on clear foundations, such as the laws and the Constitution. When we use these means, which we could consider as the common denominator between us, maybe we will not arrive at such a thing in that case.

[Allaoui] Are you, in other words, justifying political violence as a means?

[Dahmoun] I am not justifying it. I am not justifying political violence as a political means. On the contrary, we totally reject the political practices that rely on violence. However, violence must be put in its context. Violence can only generate violence. Violence was generated by the way Algeria's affairs were managed and by the system that adopted a specific policy based on nepotism, favoritism, and corruption. Moreover, even the state—and here let us point out that there is confusion between the state as an institution and the authority. It is this confusion that has led us to this labyrinth. The question is: Am I defending the state as a constitutional institution, or am I defending a given authority that is controlling this state?

Therefore, it is possible that it is the policy in force by which all issues are examined, which generates—or rather, which results—in the birth of phenomena that lead us to violence. Now, violence in Algeria is political because it stemmed from a given political situation, although these beliefs could have existed prior to that. In other words, violence was relied on as a means to come to power, but these beliefs were contained. However, when a given political pretext was provided, this violence began to grow in a way that we could not contain or avoid. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] Did the political parties ever think that the two letters [sent by Abassi Madani to Zeroual] were mere tactics by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] to open the way for itself?

[Dahmoun] We look at things as they are, and we cannot prejudge anything. We cannot say that there is a specific intention behind these letters. There is also another theory to the effect that there is a specific intention on the part of the authorities; namely, an attempt to gain time, an attempt to draw the parties into a specific policy, and so on. This theory also exists. Therefore, it should be neither this nor that. When we meet around the table for a dialogue, we can talk to one another and discuss all the problems openly, and then we can reach positive results.

[Allaoui] As is common knowledge, naturally, the FIS hopes to establish an Islamic state. Do you think that other parties, such as the MDA [Movement for Democracy in Algeria], the FLN [National Liberation Front], and all the parties taking part in the dialogue, could have a place in a state such as an Islamic state?

[Dahmoun] This is one way of looking at things. Every party has the right to choose the program that it deems suitable.

[Allaoui] I am not disputing this. The question is: Do the parties taking part in the dialogue now think that they have a place inside a given system, namely the Islamic state?

[Dahmoun] In fact, the form of this Islamic state has not crystallized yet, neither for the FIS, HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement], Ennahda, nor any other party, whether in Algeria or abroad. The idea has not crystallized yet. However, the idea of establishing an Islamic state remains on the agenda. We in the MDA think that the dominant vision currently imposed by the international order and which is mainly based on specific objectives and strategies, revolves around making the rich richer and the poor poorer and are attempts to impose a specific vision, a liberal vision oppressing the entire world. All the other states can do is to try and be part of this thinking and find their place in it.

This is why we think that the solution to all the issues existing in the international arena can be found in the Islamic alternative. However, this does not mean that my idea is similar to that of the brethren in the FIS, Hamas, and so on. [passage omitted]

We believe in the Islamic alternative, but an alternative built on a new interpretation of Islam—an interpretation that would lead us toward the creation of new ideas not toward adjustment. I am not talking about the attempts to adjust to what exists; I am talking about trying to find an alternative, a specific alternative to the current dominant model. We have not, and whatever we do we will never assert our presence in this international order.

[Allaoui] There are parties with totally conflicting views, which do not believe or rather do not endeavor to establish an Islamic state and that think that the latter is a threat to democracy and to a multiparty system.

[Dahmoun] It is premature to talk about threat. As I have already told you, there is now no specific model that we can take as an example and from which we can

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draw the features of an Islamic state that could be later seen as a threat to society. This is premature. However ....

[Allaoui, interrupting] Maybe the disagreements that have existed for four years among these various movements—for example, between Hamas and the FIS—are an indication of what could happen in the future.

[Dahmoun] The disagreements are legitimate. We may drink from the same spring, but our concepts and ideas are different. Even the methods that we use to put forward our ideas or our programs can be different.

[Allaoui] But these have led to the killing of Cheikh Bouslimani, who was a well-known Muslim preacher, and to the attempted assassination of Cheikh Mafhoud Nahna in Medea.

[Dahmoun] I ask you: What is the system in the world that did not go through these risks and excesses? Which one? Not even those that insist on a socialist or liberal program. The history of these programs are full of tragedies. So how can we take one example and say this is a threat and so on. In fact, this is more of an alarmist exaggeration than truth. Excesses and deviations could happen, but the main thing is to reach something tangible, which is compatible with me and compatible with my history and cultural vision. We have not found ourselves yet. This is what is happening. We are struggling against a dominant international order that is imposing its vision, its program, and its mechanisms. So far, however, we have not found ourselves. This may explain the reactions here and there in parts of the world, which were founded on civilizations. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak on Syrian-Israeli Peace, ICPD

NC1909075294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has declared that the peace process is proceeding along its course on the Syrian-Israeli track and that an agreement will be reached concerning the Golan Heights sooner or later, "since a just and comprehensive peace is bound to provide a safe and stable life for all peoples of the region without exception."

The president added that "it is a matter of time" in the final analysis.

The president comments were published in today's issue of the weekly newspaper MAYU, mouthpiece of the National Democratic Party.

Touching on his talks yesterday, Sunday, with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, President Mubarak stated that the talks dealt with matters concerning the Palestinian authority and possible solutions. We do not hesitate to render assistance through contacts, either with Israel or any friendly state, because we are on good terms with all parties concerned, he said.

Commenting on the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] held in Cairo recently, President Mubarak remarked that the conference's recommendations were the best testimony to Egypt's safety and stability. He added that recommendations in their final form confirmed that our calculations were accurate and that our expectations were 100 percent right.

The president noted that the conference came under fire before and during its meetings. We were not affected by that hollow criticism because we had full confidence in ourselves, he said, adding: We declared our position openly and clearly on the recommendations and the disputed points in the draft document.

His excellency added that it was impossible to issue any declaration that runs counter to the heavenly canons and the values established in the hearts and minds of every Egyptian in Cairo, the capital of al-Azhar.

He added that the conference's agenda was discussed at 14 meetings. If it was held in any other state, or any place other than Cairo, none of that would have happened and the conference would have not created controversy, Mubarak remarked. But it was held in Egypt, the state of principles, values, unwavering stances, and democracy; the candid and unfaltering Egypt, he said. He added that discussions were very energetic and that delegations were careful to attend, to register their stances very freely. Hence the conference issued a balanced document approved by all, he said.

The president noted that both King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al- Sabah phoned him to congratulate him on the outcome of the conference and its recommendations.

Commenting on reports about the cost Egypt endured to host the conference, President Mubarak affirmed that Egypt did not spend a thing on the delegation members, who came at their own expense or the expense of the United Nations. He affirmed that Egypt did not pay a single pound.

He went on to say that delegations from 183 states came to Egypt and stayed for nine days, during which they visited many places and saw for themselves the safety and stability Egypt enjoys. They found generous and hospitable people and were impressed with what they saw and heard, he said, noting that their presence helped promote Egyptian products, of which they bought much from the exhibition that was organized on the sidelines of the conference and from the local market.

President Mubarak commended the Egyptian citizens' conduct during the conference. They met their responsibility and were held in high esteem by the entire world, he said, pointing to the appreciation all official and nongovernmental delegations expressed. If we had spent

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a billion dollars on propaganda, we would not have achieved the same results the conference achieved, he remarked.

Commenting on the victory People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur achieved by winning the chairmanship of the International Parliamentary Union, President Mubarak said: This is a triumph for Egypt; it confirms the success of its policy and its good relationship with both East and West.

The president added: We always look ahead and try to bolster ties with all. We have our resolved positions that stem from our great values. That is why we were supported at the International Parliamentary Union elections by most countries, by countries in Asia, the Far East, and many European states. The United States as well supported us and the Egyptian candidate won. We now occupy three of august positions at the international level: The UN General Secretariat, the Arab League General Secretariat, and the chairmanship of the International Parliamentary Union, he said.

Musa on 'Arafat, Israeli Proliferation, Bosnia

NC1809170394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa tonight said that President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today discussed the Palestinian-Israeli track and Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza. Mubarak and 'Arafat also discussed construction in Gaza and Jericho, the Oslo and Paris meetings, and regional cooperation, Musa stated. The Egyptian foreign minister added that Egypt is holding contacts with parties interested in helping the Palestinians rebuild their infrastructure.

Minister Musa said that he will go to Washington on Tuesday [20 September] to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, after which he will go to New York to attend a session of the UN General Assembly. He added that he will hold consultations on the Libyan-Western crisis and on ways to resolve this.

Commenting on Israel's nuclear capabilities, Minister Musa said that Egypt cannot change its position with regard to Israel's joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Egypt, he said, will tell the United Nations and other international forums that Israel should join the treaty in order to maintain stability and avert a nuclear arms race in the region.

Referring to a statement by Israeli radio to the effect that Egypt is not speaking about Israeli nuclear capabilities, the foreign minister said that Egypt will continue to speak about this issue in bilateral and international exchanges. The matter will remain a subject for UN attention until a regional effort is made by Israel and the Arab countries to discuss nuclear proliferation with a view to placing all types of nuclear installations under effective international supervision. Egypt will not change its position on this issue, he added.

The foreign minister commented on the proposed UN Security Council decision on lifting some sanctions against Serbia. He said that Egypt believes this matter depends entirely on the deployment of clearly identifiable international observers who are enabled to monitor the borders between Bosnia and Serbia and Montenegro. Without observers, the matter will degenerate into a joke and the consequences for the future of the Bosnian issue will be dire.

Egypt believes that any resolution easing sanctions without referring to monitors will undermine the chances for a solution and for stability in Bosnia. Any easing of sanctions should be linked to the presence of observers capable of searching and monitoring the borders. Otherwise, the problem will get worse, the chances for peace will diminish, and the future independence and identity of Bosnia will be imperiled, Musa said.

The Egyptian minister said that if Serbian aggression continues, Bosnian Muslims should be given the opportunity to defend themselves. Otherwise, the situation will be unfair and the chances for peace and a just solution will be undermined. Musa added that the foreign ministers of Islamic countries will debate the Bosnian problem on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings.

Official on Iran Ties, Israel-Syria Talks

BR1609142094 Paris LE FIGARO in French 16 Sep 94 p4

[Report on an interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, by Claude Lorieux in Paris; date not given: "Al-Baz: 'Iran Is Powerless in the Face of Peace'"]

[Text] Usamah al-Baz, the chief political adviser to Egyptian President Mubarak, told us: "We will not lose much sleep if Iran is the only country that does not want to improve its relations with Egypt."

In response to [Iranian] President Rafsanjani who, in an interview with LE FIGARO, said that Egypt was one of the three countries with which Iran will not have diplomatic relations, Mr. al-Baz reiterated the "good and positive" attitude of the Iranian delegation at the Cairo population conference and stressed that "there have already been contacts between the foreign ministers." He concluded: "We are in favor of improving our relations with Iran, but we are in no hurry."

During a visit to Paris, the "Egyptian Kissinger" stated: "Iran's attitude does not really concern us." He explained: "First, Iranian policy is too far removed from the current trend in Middle East policy. Second, the official declarations do not reflect the real policy of that

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country." He reminded readers how, during the Iranian-Iraqi war, Tehran had received arms from Israel: "How can we believe them? We know they are lying."

Limited Influence

According to Mr. al-Baz, Iran, as a Muslim country, is quite entitled to watch over Islamic interests in Jerusalem. However, he protests the fact that "the Iranians have assumed they have the right to intervene in Palestinian affairs." They did not manage to break the Israel-Palestine agreement signed in Washington and Cairo "because they do not have real supporters within the Palestinian movement." Their influence does not extend further than "certain elements of the Hamas Islamic movement and the Islamic Jihad." He is not convinced that Iran has recently softened its stance with regard to the peace process, as is being claimed.

Cairo, together with Algiers and Tunis, has accused Tehran of fostering Islamic discontent. Usamah al-Baz denied that the Egyptian Government had "ever said that Iran was behind the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism." There are many economic, social, and psychological causes for this, he said. The war in Afghanistan was the catalyst. The CIA trained volunteers in particular in terrorism. The Iranians then helped these young men, "who were so proud of having defeated the USSR." Mr. al-Baz explained: "They then started to supply them with arms and sometimes diplomatic cover. They started to use them to destabilize Arab countries." The diplomat pointed out: "This action is continuing, in particular in Egypt, although not at the same level; it has diminshed."

Al-Asad and History

Turning to the Israeli-Arab peace process, the Egyptian president's chief political adviser stated: "I believe that a peace agreement between Israel and Syria could be ready by next spring. I base this estimation on hard facts and analyses. It would cause the Israelis problems if it came any later: The electoral campaign (for the general elections of 1996—LE FIGARO editor's note) could start in June 1995."

The Egyptian diplomat, who has often served as an intermediary between Syria and Israel, is convinced that "both sides are genuinely seeking peace. President al-Asad is looking for a place in history. He wants to see an end to Israeli occupation of a part of Syria in his lifetime."

Mr. al-Baz rules out the possibility of the Syrian president being able to choose how he comes out of the affair, either as the liberator of the occupied territory or as the man who did not give in to Israel: "He is a man with a strategic vision. He thinks that peace is in the best interests of his country and the region. For him, the Arab nation can only recover through peace, stability, and development."

Authorities Thwart Bombing Attempt

NC1609172694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] The State Security Intelligence Department has aborted a terrorist plan to blow up its building using a booby-trapped car in a suicide operation. Four terrorists were arrested, while a fourth was killed following clashes with antiterror troops inside their hideout in Imbabah hours before they were to carry out their plan. The terrorists had planned to carry out a series of terrorist operations against security targets while the International Conference on Population and Development was under way to cause various reactions.

A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry has stated that the State Security Intelligence Department received confirmed information that leading fugitive Yasir Sidqi had been hiding in a number of places in Cairo and al-Jizah and that he had reorganized his group with the help of four cadres. During a raid against the hideouts of the terrorist group, clashes broke out with terrorist Sidqi, who was killed, and the others were arrested. One of his group members was wounded when he attempted to escape.

Four Policemen, 1 Civilian Killed in Attack

NC1709122994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Captain Khalid Muhammad al-Tukhi, recruit Ra'uf 'Abduh Riyad, recruit Malak Anwar Barsum, and driver Mustafa 'Abd-al-Warith Mahmud were martyred today when they were attacked while on the highway between Qus and Luxor.

This was stated by a responsible source in the Interior Ministry. They source said that citizen Labib Ibrahim was also martyred and Mrs. Hana' Sinjir, the UNICEF representative who happened to be in the area, was injured in the same incident.

The source said: At around 0930 today, unidentified persons opened fire on police car. No. 2501 while travelling on the highway between Qus and Luxor. Five citizens were martyred and the UNICEF representative was injured. The source added that the citizen who was martyred and the injured UNICEF representative were in another car that happened to be travelling on the road at the same time and were hit by the bullets that were fired at random.

The Qina District security leaders and the criminal laboratory experts went immediately to the site to start their investigations. The security organs are continuing the search for the perpetrators and are combing the area.

The source said that the Interior Ministry will issue a detailed statement later when more information becomes available and that the Public Prosecution Office has been informed so it can start its investigations.

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Three 'Terrorists' Killed in Upper Egypt

NC1809124394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Three terrorists were killed today when a team from the antiterror and state security intelligence forces this morning stormed one of the terrorist hideouts in the city of Qift, in the upper Egyptian Governorate of Qina. The forces received information that some terrorist elements had been hiding in the area.

A responsible security source has stated that while carrying out their duty, the forces came under fire, thus prompting them to return the terrorists' fire. As a result, the three terrorists were killed. The source added that the three terrorists were among the terrorist elements who took part in the assassination of the guards at the Qift Church last week. An automatic rifle and a pistol were found inside their den. The prosecutor has been informed to start an investigation.

Seventeen Suspected 'Terrorists' Arrested

NC1809171394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—State Security Intelligence agents today arrested 17 suspected terrorists in Qina and Aswan Governorates as the manhunt for wanted terrorists continues.

Over the past two days, security organs detained 151 known extremists in simultaneous sweeps in 15 governorates for questioning about recent incidents.

The Interior Ministry issued a statement saying that the three terrorists killed earlier today took part in a number of terrorist attacks in Qina, including the one on a police vehicle and a UNICEF car yesterday. [passage omitted]

Police Kill 3 'Terrorists' in Asyut Shoot-Out

NC1909092994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Asyut, 19 Sep (MENA)—Three terrorists were killed and a noncommissioned police officer was wounded this morning in a shoot-out between a police ambush and the terrorists, who were driving a car bearing "Benghazi, private" number plates near al-Munsha'ah al- Kubra in al-Qusiyah, Asyut.

The terrorists would not stop when so ordered by the policemen participating in the ambush. They fired at the troops, wounding Najati Anwar Muhammad.

During an exchange of fire, the police killed terrorists Salim 'Abd-al-Mawla Khalid, Ahmad 'Ammar 'Abd-al-Qadir, and Husam-al-Din 'Abd-al-Raziq, all from the Khashabah homestead in al-Qusiyah. Two automatic rifles and a revolver were found with them. The security forces surrounded the area and launched a wide-scale search. Meanwhile, the al-Qusiyah prosecution started an investigation.

Muslim Brotherhood Welcomes Release of Algerians

NC1909084894 Paris AFP in English 0823 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Punctuation as received]

[Text] Cairo, Sept 19 (AFP)—Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood organization on Monday welcomed the release from prison of two leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria.

"The Muslim Brotherhood received with relief the news of the release of FIS leaders (...) and extends its congratulations to the leaders and also to the Algerian president (Liamine Zeroual) on this occasion," the banned but government-tolerated Brotherhood said in a statement to AFP.

FIS president Abbassi Madani and vice-president Ali Belhadj were freed from military prison Tuesday but put under house arrest.

They were serving 12-year sentences for endangering national security.

"We hope you will achieve national peace and restore the stability in Algeria (...) so the Algerian people can live in happiness under the banner of the great Islam," the Brotherhood said in a message to Zeroual, also obtained by AFP.

To Madani and Belhadj, the organization wrote: "We pray that God will assist you in raising the flag of Islam and achieving security and stability for the Muslim Algerian people."

The FIS has spearheaded a bloody campaign in Algeria since January 1992 when authorities cancelled the second round of general elections that FIS candidates were poised to win.

An estimated 10,000 people have died in clashes since then.

Islamic militants in Egypt launched a violent campaign to topple the country's secularist government in March 1992, which has left more than 400 people dead.

Libya

Tripoli Protests Possible Haiti Invasion to UN

LD1609154894 Tripoli JANA in English 1449 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] New York 16 Sep Jamahiriyah News Agency—The great Jamahiriyah's representative to the great Jamahiriyah [as received] has said that the threats to use force and preparations being made to invade Haiti by using the Security Council and its resolutions as a cover

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for its aggressive policies against Haiti, are a dangerous precedent which threaten international peace and blatant violation of the UN charter security, [words indistinct] of the UN Charter, blatant intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, and a threat to Haiti's security and independence.

The representative said that events in Haiti were an internal matter and do not constitute a threat to peace nor a violation nor an aggressive act which would justify the use of force.

The letter, which was sent to the secretary genetal of the United Nations, and was entered as an official document of the UN, criticized all attempts [word indistinct] to invade Haiti and said that the great Jamahiriyah is opposed to any attempts by the United States to use the Security Council as a guise for its invasion of this country.

JANA: Clinton Speech To 'Mislead' Americans

LD1609185394 Tripoli JANA in English 1834 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Washington, 16 Sep, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The American president reiterated in a speech today the American threats to invade Haiti and impose a government which will carry out American orders and policies.

The American president threaten the officials of this U.N. member state with the use of force if they refused to comply with and capitulate to the American colonialist will. The president claimed that he exhausted the so-called other options.

The American president devoted his speech today to mislead the American public opinion and get the American Government hostile plans through against Haiti. The speech did not go beyond repeating the American claims that this hostile step aims at protecting American interests while admitting that the American people oppose this invasion.

The American president said that he was aware of the opposition of many Americans to the invasion of Haiti.

A leading American congressmen commented on the speech of the president by saying that there was no American interest in Haiti which would require military intervention and that the speech [word indistinct] not convince him.

Al-Qadhdhafi Calls For Emergency Arab Summit

LD1809134694 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity [Jum'ah al-Mahdi al-Fazzani] had a meeting today with the Arab League secretary-general, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, at the Arab League headquarters. The meeting was attended by the Great Jamahiriyah's permanent representative at the Arab League.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity said after the meeting that he had handed a letter from the brother leader of the international first of September revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] to the Arab League secretary general concerning a call made by the brother leader of the revolution for the convening of an emergency Arab summit to discuss the Arab situation and to save the Arab nation.

The letter also dealt with the danger to which the Arab homeland is exposed and ways of emerging from the present crisis.

The letter stressed the importance of bringing about Arab reconciliation, in view of it being an objective of the Arab nation at this stage.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity said that the Arab summit would be convened at the headquarters of the Arab League, being the home of all Arabs.

He added that the Arab League secretary-general had blessed this Arab move led by the leader of the great first of September revolution within the framework of continued coordination and consultation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab League.

Mauritania

Opposition Leader Condemns Closure of Newspapers

LD1909105594 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Now to Mauritania, with Ahmed Ould Daddah, leader of the opposition coalition, the Union of Democratic Forces [UFD]—New Era. For several weeks now the independent press in Mauritania seems to have been in the sights of the authorities, since there has been no shortage of seizures and other pressures put on nonofficial papers. Mr Ould Daddah, speaking to Kamel Djaider, outlines the picture:

[Begin recording] [Ould Daddah] The press has already had a lot of difficulty working with the national printing house which is state owned, with all the obstacles placed in its path, and now it is almost impossible for it to work.

This is to be explained by a logic that we have always seen: The fact is that the regime is not in fact democratic. It presented itself as a democratic regime as long as the independent press was in the embryonic stage and not too troublesome. It tolerated it because, to an extent, it was a figleaf hiding the paucity of democracy. But as soon as it started to make its voice heard and to contain talented journalists, it started to be a nuisance by revealing matters of varying acceptibility, by investigating, and then by being a nuisance and (?trouble-maker).

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It is indeed a serious problem, because it is the last embryo of what has been grandly called the democratic process. If there is no independent press, as today—because this press has also been forced to call a freedom strike—I can't see what remains of what has been called the democratic process in Mauritania.

[Djaider] But how is the opposition reacting, Mr. Ould Daddah?

[Ould Daddah] We are reacting by strongly decrying this new, additional attack on democracy. We have expressed our solidarity with the independent press very strongly. We are going to organize more specific actions to support this press, and we believe that this is the last square that has to be defended.

In spite of everything, and especially thanks to the quality of the journalists, in spite of the very unfavorable environment, this press has been the last medium for what can still be called free expression in Mauritania.

[Djaider] Mr. Ould Daddah, can you say something about the opposition. It seems that it is experiencing some difficulty in facing up effectively to the existing regime. How do you explain this? Some people are talking about the erosion of the opposition trend in Mauritania.

[Ould Daddah] Any opposition faced with an emergency regime like the one in Mauritania necessarily experiences difficulties. The opposition in Mauritania has always wanted to act responsibly, and, up to now, has avoided the kind of excesses and errors that other countries have seen. By abusing this goodwill, the regime has really closed all means of expression to the opposition. It is true that some people in the opposition ranks are impatient, that there are trends in the opposition which want to settle things in a violent way, and in the case of the party that I have the honor to lead, the UFD—New Era, that, among other things, has been an element of discord within our party. [end recording]

Morocco

Two Nationals Accused of Terrorism for Algeria

LD1609222294 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Regarding the investigations into the importing of arms and munitions to Morocco to perpetrate aggressions and acts of robbery on Moroccan territory, the Ministry of Interior issued the following communique:

Intensive investigations, which have been held in Morocco and France, in parallel, have led to conclusions which, despite the fact that they remain provisional, point to the involvement of two main elements in organizing the criminal acts perpetrated on Moroccan territory. The two elements are the subject of an international arrest warrant. It has indeed become clear from the confessions made by all the persons who have been arrested—and which were supported by tangible material evidence—that the acts of violence aimed at harming Morocco's security and its citizens' security were mainly planned and directed from abroad by the two following persons: Abdelylah Ziyad nicknamed Rachid, a Moroccan born in 1958 in Casablanca. He had been sentenced in his absence to life imprisonment in 1985 for importing arms and munition to Morocco from Algeria. He has been—since the seventies—living between Algeria and France under the name Abdelmalek Bachir, holding Algerian passport no. 00611212 delivered by the Algerian authorities. M'hamed Zineddine nicknamed Sa'id, Mourad, and Mehdi, a Moroccan born in 1960 in Chegrane in the Province of Khouribga. He had also been sentenced to life imprisonment in his absence in the same case regarding the import of arms and munition to Morocco from Algeria in 1985. He has also been living between France and Algeria since the seventies.

Both the two persons are holding legal travel documents delivered to them by the Algerian authorities. These documents allowed them to obtain exceptional residence in France until 2001. The two aforementioned persons have always been used by Algerian security services. In this context and together with several other people, Ziad and Zineddine received training several times in southern Algeria on the use of arms and explosives, and precisely in Tindouf with the contribution of Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] elements.

After the failure of the acts aimed at harming the security of Morocco, which had been carried out by Algerian military security services in 1985, 1986, and 1987, as mentioned in the Ministry of Interior's communique dated 16 July 1985 and which announced the arrest of elements trained and armed in Algeria while crossing the Moroccan-Algerian border in order to perpetrate acts in Morocco, which were considered a kind of collective terrorism, the Algerian security services provided the two agents, Abdelylah Ziad and M'hamed Zineddine with the necessary financial means. They have also been given assistance in obtaining residences in Europe and France, in particular to form secret networks. These networks have been activated since 1992 through ideological indoctrination and the training of youths from poor social backgrounds and delinquents of Moroccan and Algerian origin in the use of arms. Some arms training took place in France. Information on the lives of Abdelylah Ziad and M'hamed Zineddine is to be published soon.

Foreign Affairs Committee Discusses Developments

LD1709044894 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Borders, Occupied Territories, and National Defense Committee held a meeting today that was devoted to the latest developments witnessed by our

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country. The session was attended by the prime minister and Abdellatif Filali, minister for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Mohamed Mouatassim, minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of relations with the parliament.

[Begin Badreddine Senoussi, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Borders, Occupied Territories, and National Defense Committee, recording] The committee held its meeting at a stage when Morocco is experiencing the crucial circumstances following the criminal assault that targeted the Atlas Asni Hotel and the result and repercussions of this assault, which is still being investigated. Among the impacts of these developments are the suffering experienced by our nationals in both Algeria and Tunisia following the closure by Algerian authorities of the Algerian-Moroccan land borders.

Furthermore, the Spanish Government has agreed to the projects granting self-rule to the two Moroccan cities of Ceuta and Melilla. These projects are to be submitted to the Spanish parliament. These are, in brief, the points of the agenda of this meeting.

The prime minister answered questions by the deputies. These answers focused on two issues, the first of which was our national security. In this field, the committee has noted with pride that the Moroccan body is sound. Investigations have revealed that no Moroccan has taken part in acts of sabotage from inside the country. Regarding the second issue of Ceuta and Melilla and our integral territory, the committee recalled the proposal put forward by His Majesty King Hassan II on the creation of a crisis think-tank regarding the future of the two cities, which should be returned to Morocco while preserving Spanish interests at the same time. In this regard, the committee expressed its preparedness to support the government, its endeavors, and its efforts to recuperate these two cities. [end recording]

PPS, Istiqlal Papers Review Algerian Ties

LD1609133894 Rabat MAP in English 1309 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 16 (MAP)—"Cooperation, brotherhood and solidarity between Morocco and Algeria are based on the respect of Morocco's sovereignty and territorial integrity", writes Moroccan "BAYANE EL YAOUM" daily.

An editorial published by the daily in Arabic of the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS/leftist opposition) wonders whether the appointment of a new Algerian ambassador to Morocco is prompted by a will to give momentum to bilateral relations. The PPS daily insists that cooperation and brotherhood between the two countries should be a permanent priority in the policies of the two states.

This choice requires that both countries respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, non interference in each other's domestic affairs and the banning on each other's soil of destabilizing groups. The interests of the two countries, and of the Maghreban region at large, can only be preserved by the consolidation of brotherhood and understanding for the welfare of the two states and their peoples rather than by the creation of a climate of instability and insecurity in the region, the daily says.

On its part, "L'OPINION" daily which wonders on the instigators of a plan to destabilize Morocco argues that in the absence of official information, observers believe in the involvement of foreign intelligence services, namely Algerian. Justifying this argument, the daily of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist/opposition) writes that causing insecurity in Morocco will consolidate the Algerian regime so that Algeria will not remain the only Maghreban region plagued by instability, insecurity and civil war.

For the daily, it is only normal that Algeria which is accusing Morocco of helping the transit of weapons destined to the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front "FIS" acts to introduce in Morocco arms for terrorist actions. The daily also recalls the financial and military support Algeria is granting to the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] secessionist group. It was also Algeria that helped create the group to prevent Morocco from recovering its Sahara, the Istiqlal Party daily went on.

Results of Parliamentary, Local By-Elections

LD1709164494

[Editorial Report] Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 17 September 1994 broadcasts a 5-minute Interior Ministry statement on the results of parliamentary and local by-elections held yesterday, Friday 16 September.

Parliamentary by-elections were held in Arfud, province of Errachidia; Taourirt, province of Berkane-Taourirt; Jadida 2, province of El-Jadida.

The National Rally of Independents received 42.40 percent of the votes cast; the Constitutional Union Party received 21.42 percent; the National Democratic Party received 16.46 percent; the Popular Movement—5.54 percent; the Socialist Union of Popular Forces—5.02 percent; the Progress and Socialism Party—4.63 percent; the Istiqlal Party—3.13 percent; the National Popular Movement—1.12 percent; the Action Party—0.28 percent.

Maoulay Abderrahman El-Bachiri of the Constitutional Union won the Arfoud seat; Mohamed Aberkane of the National Rally of Independents won the Taourirt seat; Mohamed Ezzahidi of the National Rally of Independents won the Jadida 2 seat.

Local by-elections:

Istiqlal Party: 20 seats—28.57 percent

The National Rally of Independents: 10 seats—14.29 percent

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The Popular Movement: Seven seats—10 percent

The National Democratic Party: Three seats—4.28 percent

The Constitutional Union Party: Three seats—4.28 percent

The Socialist Union of Popular Forces: Two seats—2.86 percent

The Progress and Socialist Party: Two seats—2.86 percent

The National Popular Movement: One seat—1.43 percent

Independent candidates: 22 seats—31.43 percent

Sudan

Al-Bashir To Travel to Kenya for IGADD Summit

EA1709203794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, will leave for the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, tomorrow morning, In order to attend the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] summit, which is scheduled to begin on 19 September. The summit is set to discuss the future of peace in Sudan. This was announced by 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, the minister of culture and information and the official government spokesman. The visit by Lt. Gen. al-Bashir was in response to an invitation extended to him by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, the chairman of the current round of talks sponsored by the IGADD.

The delegation accompanying his excellency the president would include Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih and members of the government delegation to the peace talks which ended in Nairobi recently. [passage omitted]

U.S. Complaint Rejected on Ambassador's Treatment

EA1709202694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in which it said that Mr. Michael McCurry, official spokesman for the U.S. State Department, reportedly had declared that Sudan had published information conveyed by the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum in the newspapers, and that the ambassador had thus been humiliated.

The Foreign Ministry wishes to express its regret over what was mentioned in Mr. McCurry's statement, and would like to confirm that the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum, Mr. Donald Petterson, is appreciated and respected by the Foreign Ministry and all Sudanese officials. It would like to make clear at the same time that the U.S. Government said nothing new in its unfounded charges, such as accusing Sudan of fostering terrorism. It has indeed failed miserably in providing any evidence to support these charges. This confirms Washington's opposition to Sudan's cultural orientation and its independent decision-making process. These are the real reasons, and not the charges of terrorism and other matters.

Interior Minister on Carlos Extradition

JN1809181894 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 19 Sep 94 pp 10-11

[Report on an interview with Interior Minister Brigadier General Dr. al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr by correspondent Kamal Hasan Bakhit in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] The world is still preoccupied with the Carlos case, despite the implausible American blackout on the entire issue. Seeking new and exciting reports, mass media representatives flocked to Paris and Khartoum, particularly the latter, since the issue concerned these two capitals. The Sudanese interior minister, Brig. Gen. Dr. al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, who was reviewing the issue with Sudanese security organs, remained silent. No Arab or Sudanese paper has managed to reach him for an interview. Only AL-MUHARRIR has been able to get him to reveal the secrets of Carlos's arrival in Sudan and how he was handed over to Interpol and the French authorities. The Sudanese interior minister says that he gave AL-MUHARRIR the first interview because he appreciates its attitude toward Sudan. Thanks go to Brig. al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr.

The Sudanese interior minister started the interview by turning to the first page in Carlos's file. He said: One year ago, a person carrying a diplomatic passport issued by the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen in the name of 'Abdallah Barakat entered Sudan. It is known that Sudan opens its doors to all the Arab brothers without asking for entry visas. 'Abdallah Barakat entered Sudan accompanied by a group of Arab citizens holding ordinary Arab passports. Diplomatic passports bearers are usually important people and since no one from his country's embassy was there to welcome him, the security forces were alerted.

After completing the entry formalities, the Arab group, led by 'Abdallah Barakat, left for the Meridian Hotel. The group soon left the country and 'Abdallah Barakat, the diplomatic passport bearer, settled in Khartoum where he and his wife rented an apartment. The diplomat was subjected to the routine supervision measures for all foreigners, and at that time, the monitoring team had not verified the motives of the visit or the identity of the visitor.

During this period, our security bodies observed that no one from his country's embassy or from any other Arab

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embassy had contacted him. This gave rise to some questions. 'Abdallah Barakat, or Carlos, led a normal life for some time. He used to go for picnics and buy necessities with his wife. Then he started to frequent clubs in the evenings and to make outside contacts.

We had some questions as to why this important diplomat was here, why he moved to an ordinary quarter of Khartoum, and why no one from the country whose passport he held, which could have been forged, had contacted him. Here the degree of caution increased and there were many questions about the man. We intensified the monitoring, and the security team launched a new stage, that of intensive monitoring. During the intensive monitoring, all his outside contacts were recorded and his night movements noted. Our people noticed that groups of Arab citizens arrived from abroad. They contacted him, and then, shortly thereafter, returned to where they had come from. Each group comprised three to seven persons.

The security team deemed it necessary to intensify its monitoring. Some team members, who were carefully selected to solve this riddle, managed to meet Carlos. One day, 'Abdallah Barakat, Carlos, quarreled with some Sudanese citizens in a store owned by a Sudanese lady. He pulled out his gun. The police took him and the Sudanese citizens to the police station. After the interrogation he was asked if anyone in Sudan could confirm his identity, and he mentioned the name of a new Sudanese acquaintance and gave his telephone number. Shortly after that, the Sudanese citizen, who was a member of the secret security team came, bailed him out, and gave him a lift home.

The Sudanese interior minister added: This suspicious behavior made the security team seek information about the man and find out how dangerous he was. We drew up a plan to unravel this enigma. The third stage of dealing with him began and two questions were posed. Who is this dangerous man ? What does he want from Sudan? We called this period the stage of "disturbing doubt."

During the interrogation of the man following the gun incident the security monitoring team mentioned that this foreigner once told them that was Carlos. None of the team members expressed astonishment.

The security men did not believe that this man could really be Carlos. They thought that since he had said so without being asked, he was trying to deceive them and conceal his real identity. The Sudanese security men began reviewing all their information and preparing lists of all suspect people, including Carlos. The fourth stage began; the stage of "certitude."

We started to study Interpol files. We found a request dating back to 1975 for the arrest of a criminal called Ilich Ramirez Sanchez known as Carlos, a request which had not been canceled. The Interpol file contained many important details about this dangerous man. We found that the description fit our man very well.

The Sudanese minister said: Since the original request was made by France for crimes the man had committed there, contacts were made with France to exchange information, all of which confirmed that the man was really Carlos, the international terrorist who stunned the world with his actions.

Here the Sudanese interior minister paused, changed position, and said: Carlos entered Sudan with a forged passport. What is the purpose of his visit? The minister replied: Here began the fifth stage, that of dealing with the facts. It was the most dangerous and embarrassing stage.

After lengthy discussions, a careful study of the case from all its aspects, and the expected reactions, we found ourselves facing three options in dealing with this dangerous man.

The first option was to ask him to leave Sudan by declaring him persona non grata without revealing the reasons or details of such a decision. The second option was to arrest him and bring him to trial in Sudan on charges of entering the country with forged papers. The third option was to hand him over to France and Interpol as requested.

The Sudanese interior minister added: We found that the third option was the best, as the first could fail, and it would be illogical under the second option to try him on charges of entering the country with forged papers and other minor violations while he is wanted for atrocious crimes.

The Sudanese minister went on to say: Our security agencies held successive meetings to plan the arrest of this dangerous criminal. We took into account that he is a fierce fighter and not a docile man who can be easily arrested, and that he always carries a gun with 11 bullets which is ready to be fired.

The minister added: Friends told us to pay attention to any movement of his hand toward the left side of his chest. This is where he keeps his gun.

When Brig. Gen. Khayr ended his story, he took a deep breath, and said: This is how the story of Carlos transpired. The extradition was carried out after deep study and in accordance with the principles we preach and work for. It was not the result of a deal as some foreign media organs and his lawyer said.

He added: We do not sell out our friends or those who seek refuge in Sudan, but the conditions for refugee-seekers do not apply to Carlos. He is a terrorist who entered our country secretly without our knowledge and with forged papers. He did not reveal his identity except during intensive interrogation. We made sure, and in a legal manner, of the crimes he committed in France, and then we responded to the Interpol and French demand. That was what happened.

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[Bakhit] Do you expect hostile reactions against Sudan or its establishments abroad from Carlos' aides or those who sympathize with him after the extradition?

[Khayr] We are prepared for the worst. We expect violent actions against our establishments abroad. We expect assassination attempts, or attempts to kidnap diplomats or officials, and to hijack airplanes. We are studying how to deal with such cases. This is the fifth stage of dealing with Carlos. We have our special and effective means to defend or to quickly and constantly react. We are prepared for all the worst possibilities on both domestic and foreign levels. Since the day of his extradition, we have been on a high state of alert, and our services are ready.

He added: At the same time, we warn all those who want to exploit what took place within the framework of international law and legitimacy, and tell them that we are ready and our arms are not short as those who play with words in their statements think. Those who claim that they were aware of everything were not aware of anything.

[Bakhit] Do you think that the extradition of Carlos will influence your relations with some countries that dealt with him, or those for whom Carlos was working, or even Arab or foreign countries that sympathize with him?

[Khayr] First of all, Carlos came to Sudan from an Arab country, and we expect the intelligence service of that country was fully aware of the departure of Carlos from the capital of that country. We do not rule out the possibility that the government of that sisterly Arab country, which exported Carlos to us, was not aware of that operation, and that it took place without its knowledge because where certain issues are concerned many intelligence services act without the knowledge of their governments. We will deal with this subject with the sisterly Arab country within the framework of our diplomatic relations.

He added: So far, our relations with that country that dealt with Carlos or sympathized with him have not been affected. We are not concerned with this subject because we carried out our duty in the manner that satisfies God and our consciences, objectives, and principles.

[Bakhit] Have you received any protests against the extradition?

[Khayr] Not so far. George Habash issued a threatening statement. This is expected from Habash because Carlos used to work with him. We consider George Habash's threat an expected reaction for which we are fully prepared.

[Bakhit] Did Carlos come from Syria? How are your relations with Syria?

[Khayr] First, I would like to stress that Carlos did not come from Syria. On this occasion, I would like to note that our relations with Syria are quite strong and developed, and provide an example of how relations between any two Arab countries should be. We are eager to promote these relations further and further.

[Bakhit] French and other papers published many photographs of Carlos which were said to have been taken in Khartoum before his discovery and subsequent extradition. In your view, who took those photos of Carlos? It must be someone who definitely knew him?

[Khayr] As I said, I do not rule out the possibility of foreign intelligence service involvement. There are foreign regimes conspiring to accuse us of providing shelter for terrorists. Carlos was leading a normal life in Sudan. He used to spend evenings at clubs and parties. He was free to go wherever he wanted. He was arrested only after it was decided to implement the third option. It is natural for any party taking part in the conspiracy to take photos of Carlos to compile evidence needed for filling the gaps in the plot against Sudan.

[Bakhit] Do you expect positive steps from Western nations, especially the United States, which has Sudan on its list of countries sponsoring terrorism? Do you expect it to remove Sudan from this list after the extradition of Carlos?

[Khayr] In the Carlos case, we dealt with proved facts. He did not enter Sudan as a refugee, but as a fugitive. He was disguised and carried a forged passport. He is not an ordinary person. We believe that he is a terrorist with no thought or ideology to defend. He takes pride in the fact that he has killed over 80 people.

Carlos is accused of killing many innocent people. This is the main reason that made us decide to extradite him to the French authorities. We have taken this move on pure and principled moral grounds, not to have the United States remove us from its terrorism list.

The Sudanese minister said: The statements made by some U.S. officials implied that the presence of Carlos in Sudan was the main reason for placing it on the list of the countries sponsoring terrorism. If this were the reason, as some U.S. officials have said, will Sudan then be removed from the list of the countries sponsoring terrorism since the reason for placing it on this list has been removed?

He added: I do not think that this will happen. This is because we were placed on the list of the countries sponsoring terrorism due to our determination to follow our cultural plan, and also due to our adherence to Islamic law, our ethical principles, and our pursuit of an independent political course. .

[Bakhit] In your capacity as Sudanese interior minister, what do you have to say to those who are accusing you of setting up camps for training terrorists and rebels?

[Khayr] I would like to address them, saying: Come to Sudan, and go wherever you want to go. Show us—and

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the world at large—evidence, proving that Sudan houses camps, or even a single camp, for training terrorists, or that there is a single terrorist in Sudan.

He added: Thus far, neither the United States, Egypt, nor any of the other countries that are accusing us of sponsoring terrorism has managed to provide a shred of evidence corroborating their charges in this regard. It is a political war waged against our country.

[Bakhit] Where is the Sudanese-Egyptian escalation heading?

[Khayr] It will continue until the Egyptian regime realizes that Sudan has matured, that it should be allowed to pursue its own independent political course, that it cannot demonstrate subservience to anyone, that it has the right to adhere to its objectives and cultural plan, and that it also has the right to live and make sacrifices to vindicate its cause.

He added: We believe that the Egyptian people are a fraternal Arab and Muslim people. Similarly, we believe that the eternal relationship between the two peoples of the Nile valley is stronger than the machinations of the oppressive regional and international regimes. This relationship will remain very much alive as long as the Nile River keeps running. This escalation will continue until the Cairo regime brings itself to realize this fact.

[Bakhit] Fraternal Arabs enter Sudan without prior entry visa requirements. This is the manifestation of a sound pan-Arab course. But, do you not think that this pan-Arab stand has created problems for you; opened a security loophole through which Carlos entered—an incident that might be repeated by his ilk?

[Khayr] Our decision to open Sudan to fraternal Arabs was a principled move on our part. It is in line with our code of ethics, and our approach. We are well aware that it has many advantages, as well as some disadvantages, which we are attempting to avoid.

He added: Several Arab states revoked the prior visa requirement for fraternal Arabs before we did. We hope that the remaining Arab states will follow suit so Arabs may tour the Arab homeland without restrictions. Europeans have the right to tour European states freely. This is the approach pursued by the entire world today.

The Sudanese interior minister concluded his statements to AL-MUHARRIR, saying: We are walking the right path; hence we are not afraid. As for our security services, they are enlightened, capable, and highly efficient.

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GCC Foreign Ministers Hold 52d Session in Riyadh

Saudi Prince Sa'ud Presides

LD1709194694 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1057 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 17 Sep—The 52nd session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] began at noon today at the headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat. His royal highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister and chairman of the current session, will preside over the meetings.

At the beginning of the meeting his royal highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal gave a speech in which he said that he was happy to welcome in the Kingdom their excellencies the GCC foreign ministers and was happy to take part in this blessed meeting.

His highness pointed out that this meeting fell within the framework of the eagerness to consult each other and coordinate on resolving issues of interest to GCC member countries, as well as to implement the GCC Higher Council's decisions made at its subsequent meetings. [passage omitted]

His highness went on to say: We have expressed, at our previous meetings, our concern over the very serious events that befell fraternal Yemen and have urged the brothers in Yemen to exercise self-restraint, end the fighting, and put the interest of the Yemeni people over and above any other consideration.

Today we would like to reiterate our appeal to the brothers in Yemen to continue the political dialogue in such a way that would serve the stability and prosperity in fraternal Yemen, a matter that would reflect positively on the security and the stability of our Arab peninsula.

His highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that the confrontation with the challenges in our Gulf region warranted tireless efforts in view of the Iraqi regime's evasive methods, its procrastination and selective implementation of international resolutions, following its aggression on the fraternal state of Kuwait in a bid to persuade world public opinion, through a partial implementation of international stipulations on the removal of weapons of mass destruction in its possession, to lift or ease the sanctions.

His royal highness said: The Iraqi attempts have become exposed and known to the international legitimacy, which insists on Iraq's total and complete implementation of the UN Security Council's resolutions in connection with its assault against Kuwait, the resolutions that stress that the bone of the matter is Iraq's full, explicit, and documented recognition of Kuwait, entity, and borders, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 133, the release of all the Kuwaiti and other detainees and POWs, the payment of full compensation for all the damages caused by the Iraqi regime's aggression, and the Iraqi regime's commitment to abstain from carrying out or supporting any act of violence or sabotage, all these conditions being an integral legal obligation.

His royal highness the foreign minister, added: As we reiterate the expression of our preoccupation and concern over the suffering of the Iraqi people, for which the Iraqi regime alone bear complete responsibility, we demand that the Baghdad regime complies with UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 that deal with the humanitarian, food, and medical needs of the Iraqi people.

His royal highness the foreign minister went on to say that our GCC leaders have stressed their interest and sincere desire to develop friendly relations between our countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on the full respect of the sovereignty and independence of the region's countries, the noninterference in their internal affairs, and on the principles of good-neighborliness and Islamic brotherhood.

On this issue, his royal highness expressed his hope that Iran would share this desire with the GCC states, expressing his regret over the continuation of the dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran over the three UAE islands, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, despite the good initiative taken by his royal highness Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al-Nuhayyan, the UAE president, in which he called for serious talks in order to end the Iranian occupation of the three islands according to international laws and norms, the principles of good-neighborliness, and mutual respect.

His royal highness went on to say: We can only hope that Iran responds positively to this initiative.

His highness said that we were following with great concern the development of the peace process in the Middle East, which we have supported since it started in the Madrid Conference in an attempt to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy, at the top of which were the Security Council's Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, in such a way that achieved the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories, at the top of which was Holy Jerusalem, and provided a just solution to the issue of the fraternal Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

His Highness pointed out that the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina was still an issue of interest and extreme concern for the council's countries. He pointed out that a glimpse of hope appeared, represented by the Bosnian Muslims and Croats' acceptance of the peace plan suggested by the liaison group last July, except that the Bosnian Serbs' evasion and their blatant challenge of the international will threatened the continuation of the

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suffering of the Bosnian people and the renewal and expansion of the fighting in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

His highness the foreign minister affirmed the GCC countries' support for the decisions of the extraordinary session of the Islamic Foreign affairs Conference, held recently in Islamabad, which asked the Security Council to review the embargo resolutions imposed on former Yugoslavia in order to enable the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to exercise its legitimate right in self-defense, which Article 51 of the UN Charter guarantees. At the same time, his highness asked Europe to assume its responsibilities and support the international effort for this purpose. [passage omitted]

Final Statement Issued

LD1809101294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2250 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Sep (SPA)—The ministerial council of the GCC member states ended its 52d session this evening at the headquarters of the general secretariat of the council in Riyadh. At the beginning of the final session headed by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Shaykh Fahim Bin Sultan al- Qasimi, his excellency the secretary general of the GCC, read out the final statement issued by the council at the conclusion of its meetings. Here is the text of the statement:

Press Statement

The ministerial council held its 52d ordinary session at the headquarters of the general secretariat in Riyadh on Saturday, 12 Rabi' al-Akhar 1415 A.H., corresponding to 17 September 1994 A.D., under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, chairman of the ministerial council's present session, in the presence of:

His Highness Shaykh Hamdan bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE];

His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign affairs minister in the State of Bahrain;

His Excellency Yusuf bin-'Alawi bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman;

His Excellency Shaykh Hamad bin-Jasim bin-Jabir Al Thani, foreign affairs minister in the State of Qatar; and

His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for council of ministers affairs in the State of Kuwait.

The ministerial council discussed the recent developments in the regional arena in the light of the Iraqi regime's continued pursuance of the policy of procrastination and dealing with the Security Council's resolutions in connection with its aggression on the State of Kuwait in a selective manner without fulfilling essential commitments dictated by those resolutions, particularly the clauses of Resolution 687, which determined the cease-fire conditions.

The council condemns the Iraqi regime's attempts to relieve itself of its interrelated international commitments, emphasizing once more that respect for the sovereignty and independence of the State of Kuwait and its international borders and the release of all the prisoners and detainees represents the essence of the commitments stipulated by Resolution 687.

The ministerial council also condemns the Iraqi regime's attempts to fragment that decision and use its 22d article to lift the sanctions without abiding by the other main obligations stipulated by Resolution 687.

The ministerial council calls on the international community to avert the attempts by the Iraqi regime to circumvent resolutions of international legitimacy. The council praises the UN Security Council maintaining in September the sanctions against the Iraqi regime until it implemented all the resolutions of international legitimacy in connection with its aggression against Kuwait and the articles of Resolution 687, particularly the ones in connection with the respect of the State of Kuwait's sovereignty, and which recognized in writing the international borders between the State of Kuwait and Iraq in accordance with Resolution 833 on the basis of legislation to be issued by the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and the Iraqi National Council and to be published in the Iraqi official bulletin and sanctioned and deposited at the United Nations. Iraq should also release all Kuwaiti and other nationals held as detainees and POW's and begin paying compensations and shun terrorism.

The council appreciates the UN Security Council's member states' firm stance in requiring the implementation of all the UN Security Council's resolutions.

The ministerial council reiterates its total eagerness to preserve the Iraqi territories' integrity, safety, security, and its sovereignty. The council also stresses its sympathy with the brotherly Iraqi people in their ordeal and suffering, for which only the Iraqi regime is to be blamed as a result of its refusal to comply with Security Council's Resolutions 706 and 713, which deal with Iraq's needs from medicine and food.

The ministerial council reviewed the developments in the relations between the GCC member states and the Islamic Republic of Iran and stressed the GCC states' stance calling for preserving the region's security and stability and the establishment of natural neighborly ties based on mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, abstaining from the use of force or threatening to use it, and solving conflicts through peaceful means.

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Proceeding from these principles, the GCC member states many times urged Iran to respond to the call of the UAE to resolve the issue of the Iranian occupation of the three islands—the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, which belong to the UAE—through peaceful means and through serious bilateral negotiations. While it appreciates the efforts made by the UAE to resolve this dispute bilaterally, and given that Iran has failed to show a serious will to discuss an ending of its occupation of the three islands—the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa—the council urges Iran to accept that this file be referred to the International Court of Justice, which is the international ad hoc quarter for resolving international disputes.

The council examined the latest developments of the peace process in the Middle East. While it notes with satisfaction the tangible progress realized on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and the considerable steps taken by the two sides in the context of the early transfer of responsibilities to the civil Palestinian authority and the expanding of the Palestinian self-rule, the council urges the international community and the two cosponsors, the United States and the Russian Federation, to put pressure on Israel to stop placing obstacles in the way of the Palestinian national authority discharging its tasks. Likewise, the council welcomes the progress achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli track. The council also expresses its deep concern over the lack of tangible progress in negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks, due to Israel's obduracy and its refusal to carry out the basics agreed upon at the Madrid peace conference and the principle of land for peace.

The council stresses that the core of the peace process lies in the realization of a just and comprehensive peace on all tracks. The ministerial council reaffirms its full support for the peace process on all tracks in order to arrive at a just, overall, and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace.

Achieving Israel's total withdrawal from all the occupied territories, restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and establishing its independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. [sentence as received]

The ministerial council calls on the international community, particularly the UN Security Council and the Middle East peace process cosponsors, to put pressure on Israel not to alter the existing characteristics of Jerusalem as they have been since 1967 and to comply with international legitimacy resolutions in connection with Holy Jerusalem. The council stresses the need for Israel to undertake not to introduce any changes with regard to the population of Jerusalem during the transitional period in any way that would affect the results of the talks on the final status of the city.

The council expresses its extreme concern over the continuing aggression by Israel against the sovereignty of Lebanon and the displacement of the population of the Lebanese villages in blatant violation of international treaties and the Middle East peace process. The council condemns Israel for carrying out such aggressive acts and calls on the UN Security Council and the Middle East peace process cosponsors to take all possible measures in order to halt these assaults against civilians in Lebanon and to put pressure on Israel to implement Resolution 425 and observe an unconditional and complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The council is monitoring with concern the developments in brotherly Somalia and expresses hope that national consensus is achieved there in a way that would preserve Somalia's unity and independence.

The council also reviewed the developments in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the light of the rejection by Bosnian-Serbs of the peace plan approved by the five state international contact group. The council expresses its deep concern regarding the persistent defiance by Serbian forces against the international community and its breaches of the UN Charter and international law by continuing their acts of ethnic cleansing against Bosnia's Muslims, their assaults against UN troops, and their hindering of convoys carrying humanitarian aid to the population of Bosnia.

The Council condemns the Serbian aggression and reiterates that the independence and the sovereignty of the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the integrity of its territory should not be a stake for bargaining under any circumstance and that Sarajevo should remain its indivisible capital.

The Council reiterates its call upon the UN Security Council to make sure that aggression is not rewarded, to declare the whole of republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as safe haven, to deploy UN troops along Bosnia-Herzegovina's border with Serbia and Montenegro in order to stop military aid, and to enable the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to exercise its legitimate right to self defense in accordance with Chapter 51 of the UN charter, including the lifting the arms embargo against it.

In this respect, the council praises in particular the positive and constructive stance of the United State which aims to lift the arms embargo imposed on the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Council also reiterates its full support for the demands of the Islamic Conference Organization's contact group on Bosnia- Herzegovina to take part in the meeting of the five-countries' contact group.

The ministerial council expresses its grave concern over the violence and the fighting in Afghanistan and calls upon all the factions of the Afghan jihad to put the Afghan people's interest over and above any other consideration as well as to stop the fighting and show commitment to the stipulations of the Mecca agreement.

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The Council followed the outcome of the meetings of the ministerial and technical committees in charge of overseeing the implementation of the stipulations of the joint economic agreement on the unification of customs regulations and coming up with fresh proposals on new activities and professions, which can be taken up by the GCC citizens, and on the new companies which can be floated and whose shares can be bought and sold by GCC citizens as well as on the improvement of the regulations of wholesale trade.

The Council hopes the above committee will end its discussions on these topics before the next meeting of the GCC Higher Council.

[Signed] Riyadh, 2 Rabi' al-Thani 1415H, corresponding to 17 September 1994. Then the Bahraini foreign affairs minister, His Excellency Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, made a statement in which he expressed his thanks to the government of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and to the people of Saudi Arabia for the generous hospitality and the care accorded to the participants in the round.

He also expressed his thanks and appreciation for the foreign minister, HRH Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, for his efforts in chairing previous rounds and this round of the Ministerial Council which had been marked by wisdom, good performance and the ability to properly manage the meeting which contributed to its success and the achievement of its goals.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah pointed out that by the end of this round the council had ended its ordinary meetings for the current year after fulfilling, thanks be to God, several steps on the course of cooperation and integration between the GCC's states and peoples.

At the end of his statement he invited the members of the foreign ministers' council to attend the next ministerial meeting in Bahrain next November which will prepare for the fifth summit of the GCC leaders due to be held in Bahrain next December.

Bahrain

Council Briefed on GCC Ministerial Meeting

LD1809204594 Riyadh SPA in English 1933 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Manama, Sept 18, SPA—GCC's [Gulf Cooperation Council] recent meetings at ministerial level have taken place within the framework of the constant goal of supporting GCC's march and establishing the principles of security, peace and stability in the region, the Bahraini Council of Ministers has reiterated.

The Gulf news agency quoted Muhammad al-Mutawwa', the Bahraini state minister for cabinet affairs, as saying that the Bahraini council—which held a session here today under the chairmanship of Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah—was briefed on the outcome of the 52d session of GCC's Ministerial Council, which was held in Riyadh yesterday.

The Bahraini Council of Ministers also commended GCC's participation in the exhibition of GCC and Britain, currently held in London, which highlighted the role being played by GCC countries in the field of international trade and economy.

Kuwait

UN Decision To Extend Iraqi Sanctions Welcomed

LD1809180994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1547 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 18 Sep—'Abd-al-Latif al-Rawdam, the general secretary of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has said that at its weekly meeting today, the council welcomed the UN Security Council's recent decision to extend the international sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime.

In a press statement after the meeting, he added that the council expressed its appreciation of the stance taken by the member-countries of the UN Security Council regarding the Iraqi regime's prevarications and its attempts to get around the legitimate international resolutions concerning its aggression against the State of Kuwait.

He said the Council of Ministers had stressed that the UN Security Council's decision to extend the sanctions represented a clear and categorical message to the Iraqi regime on the international community's rejection of the Iraqi regime's persistent prevarication and procrastination in the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions, particularly those concerning documented recognition of the independence and sovereignty of the State of Kuwait and its international borders in accordance with [UN Security Council] Resolution 833, and on the basis of a decree to be issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and the National Assembly to be published in the official gazette, and to be documented and lodged with the United Nations, and the release of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees and those who are subjects of other countries, in view of the commitments stipulated on the basis of those resolutions represent the basis and essence of the dispute. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Denies Iraqi Youths Kidnapped

LD1609220794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1919 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpts] United Nations, 16 Sep—The State of Kuwait today strongly refuted Iraqi allegations to the effect that two Iraqi youths were kidnapped last month on the

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Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone, and described these allegations as being false.

In a message addressed to the UN Security Council, Muhammad Abdullah Abu al-Hasan, the permanent ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, said that "this issue was completely unfounded, and that the Kuwaiti authorities had no information about these two Iraqi youths."

Abu al-Hasan had informed KUNA here when the Iraqi allegations were put forward to the Security Council for the first time earlier this month that "even if these allegations were true, these two Iraqis must have violated the provisions that govern the demilitarized zone by infiltrating into the Kuwaiti side." [passage omitted]

In his message, Abu al-Hasan pointed out that "the Kuwaiti police do not carry out any patrol operations behind the fourth wall, which is a trench extending along the Kuwaiti border with Iraq, without an escort from the UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] force, and without prior permission from the UNIKOM command."

U.S. Envoy Reaffirms 'Commitment'

LD1809211994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1908 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Kuwait, 18 September—Ryan C. Crocker, American ambassador to Kuwait, reaffirmed today the U.S. commitment to Kuwait and described the current joint military maneuvers as representing a symbol of this commitment.

In a news conference he held here, he said that "the time is ripe to demonstrate those important symbols of American commitment toward Kuwait and the region."

He added that "important additional military equipment arrived at the beginning of last July and was stationed in Kuwait to protect it in cases of emergency, and giant B-52 bombers participated in the joint maneuvers between the American and Kuwaiti forces which took place on the fourth anniversary of the Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait."

[Words indistinct] the bombers bombed targets in barren areas after flying nonstop from their base in the state of Louisiana on 2 August as part of the joint Kuwaiti-American maneuvers.

Crocker described this maneuver as being "a very clear demonstration of the U.S. commitment to the region."

The American ambassador spoke about the Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages in the hands of the Iraqi regime and said: It is regrettable that only little progress has been recorded in respect to implementation of the UN resolutions, including those concerning the important humanitarian issue of prisoners. He said also: The Iraqi regime is trying to create an unsubstantiated image of cooperation, and the Iraqis have not answered the question of whether these prisoners are alive or dead. Mr. Crocker further said: Despite the fact that we are putting pressure on Iraq in order to receive concrete answers, we have not received any answer. The American ambassador denied the likelihood of the use of military means to rescue the Kuwaiti hostages, and he said: Attempts to rescue war hostages and prisoners are usually not successful, particularly when their location is unknown and when they are in the hands of an aggressive regime.

The U.S. ambassador then referred to the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime and said that the recent review of these sanctions by the Security Council on 14 September did not require lengthy discussion, as there was unanimous agreement that no change had taken place in the sanctions [as heard] imposed on that regime. He said that the Security Council was sure that it was not time yet to make any important change on the resolutions relating to the sanctions in connection with the Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait. He added that "one ought to look at the question of the behavior of the Iraqi regime and the sanctions imposed on it as one issue without linking it to the resolutions relating to the weapons of mass destruction" which the Baghdad regime has. Crocker stressed that "the Security Council should be assured regarding the peaceful intentions of Iraq according to the content of the preamble of Resolution 687." The preamble of this resolution contains the recognition of the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait and its territorial integrity and the return of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti hostages as well as the assets that are still in Iraq and the removal of the weapons of mass destruction which the Baghdad regime has.

Crocker said that "it is quite clear that four years after the Iraqi invasion of the state of Kuwait no change has taken place in the attitude of the Baghdad regime or its compliance with the international resolution." He added that "the U.S. Administration is firm in its attitude to make certain through the sanctions that Iraq never repeats its act." He stressed that the Baghdad regime should show peaceful intentions and should comply with all the international resolutions before the international sanctions are lifted. He said that "it will be a gross mistake for the sanctions to be lifted before the intentions of the Baghdad regime become apparent because the lifting of the sanctions before that would give the Baghdad regime the means to overcome the international sanctions and continue the aggressive policies it pursued previously." The U.S. ambassador pointed out that the sanctions would not be linked to a definite timetable but would depend on the Baghdad regime's implementation of the UN resolutions and showing its peaceful intentions.

Saudi Arabia

British Prime Minister Major Arrives in Jeddah

LD1809191594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Sep SPA—His excellency, British Prime Minister John Major arrived this evening in

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Jeddah on a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He was welcomed on arrival at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport by his royal highness, the Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, and His Royal Highness Prince Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general.

King Fahd Hosts Banquet

LD1809221594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2147 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 18 September SPA—King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, hosted a dinner this evening in honor of His Excellency British Prime Minister Mr. John Major and the delegation accompanying him. The custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd decorated Mr. John Major with the Sash of King 'Abd al-'Aziz, First Class. [passage omitted]

British Defense Export Service Head Visits

LD1809164494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Sep, SPA—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, at his office this afternoon received Sir Alan Thomas, the head of the Defense Export Service Organization at the British Ministry of Defense, and his successor Mr. Charles (Mansfield), and their accompanying delegation.

King Fahd Telephones King Hassan, Shaykh Zayid

LD1609123794 Riyadh SPA in English 1221 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Jeddah, Sept 16, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz telephoned last night King Hassan of Morocco in the framework of consultations he used to made with brotherly leaders of Arab states. During the telephone conversation, the two leaders reviewed the latest developments of the Arab region. King Fahd expressed the heartfelt compliments and good wishes to the Moroccon monarch and the brotherly people of Morocco.

King Fahd also made a similar telephone call to Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates and discussed with him matters of mutual interest.

Student Group Issues Antigovernment Statement

MM1609155994 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Excerpt] Dubai, REUTER, AFP—[passage omitted] AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has received a copy of a statement issued by the union of [Saudi] university students in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Britain, the United States, and Canada. It carries an appeal calling for the country's salvation from the political, economic, security, and educational decline, which has reached its most serious point with the arrest of a number of ulemas, thinkers, and university professors.

The statement vehemently criticizes the Saudi Government, accusing it of wasting the country's wealth, spending lavishly in the area of care to conceal the scandals, pushing the country into losing battles in Yemen, supporting the rebels in southern Sudan, and destroying the Saudi people's relations with their brothers in the Islamic world and their neighbors in Yemen, Qatar, Iraq, Jordan, and Algeria.

The university students' union says that "this is the time for us to organize our ranks and face our fate, because there is no value in a life of humiliation and slavery under these childish decisions and stupid tyranny. We, God willing, will continue to issue these statements and to demand a solution until God's victory comes."

A spokesman for the Committee [for the Defense of Legitimate] Rights said yesterday that al-Buraydah city in al-Qasim area has turned into a military barracks, as the government has dispatched large numbers of police, special security, anti-riot, elite strike, and National Guard forces.

The spokesman said that the main Riyadh-al-Qasim road was crowded with military and armored vehicles on their way to the area to confront any demonstrations.

The spokesman added that the clerics and ulemas have decided not to clash with the security forces.

Over 1,000 'Political Activists' Said Arrested

NC1909091694 Paris AFP in English 0759 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Nicosia, Sept 19 (AFP)—Saudi authorities in a military-style crackdown have arrested more than 1,000 political activists, including clerics and university professors, an Islamic human rights group said.

Most arrests took place in Buraydah, 300 kilometers (180 miles) northwest of Riyadh, which is "held by tens of thousands of soldiers and armored vehicles," the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights [CDLR] said.

The London-based CDLR said in a statement to AFP late Sunday [18 September] that dozens of clerics and professors were among those arrested, including Sifr al-Hawwali, a professor at the religious university in Mecca.

Also arrested were Muhsin al-Awaji, a professor in the agronomy department at King Sa'ud University in the Saudi capital Riyadh, as well as shaykhs 'Abdallah al-Jalali, 'Ayidh al-Qurni and Sultan al- Khamis, the statement said.

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It said security forces on Saturday raided and arrested all the occupants of several homes, including that of Shaykh Salman al-'Awdah—a religious leader recently arrested in Buraydah and whose released the CDLR has demanded.

During Friday prayers security forces raided several mosques in Buraydah, the committee said, adding that "two clashes took place between these forces and worshippers."

Saudi authorities banned the committee several days after it was formed in May 1993 with the goal of fighting "oppression and injustice" and since then it has organized activities from London.

Yemen

Russia's Posuvalyuk Makes Statement, Departs

JN1709123794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, and Russian president's envoy, left Sanaa today following a visit of several days to our country, during which he conveyed a message to Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', Posuvalyuk said he is carrying a reply from the brother president to President Yeltsin, containing ideas about the promotion of bilateral relations. He expressed his happiness with the Yemeni leadership's understanding of the need to upgrade the level of relations and political dialogue among the officials at both countries' foreign ministries.

He said relations between the two countries must be safeguarded and promoted, particularly under the current circumstances in the two countries.

He was seen off by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, a representative of the Presidential Council's protocol, and the Russian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Saudi Call for Dialogue Viewed

JN1709210694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Yemeni political sources today commented on the call made by brother Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, in his address today before the 52d meeting of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council. In his address, Prince Sa'ud called on the Yemenis to resume political dialogue, and said that this will positively contribute to bolstering the security and stability of the Arabian Peninsula.

The sources said: We had expected Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to announce a normalization of relations between the Republic of Yemen and Saudi Arabia in response to the Yemeni Government's calls to turn over a new leaf between the two sisterly countries after the defeat of the sedition instigated by the treasonous secessionists. Those calls were made by Yemen despite the fact that everyone knows the quarters that financed the sedition, in which Yemenis were killed and the infrastructure of the Yemeni economy was destroyed.

The sources added that inter-Yemeni dialogue is an internal affair currently being undertaken by the political forces in Yemen.

Commenting on the Saudi foreign minister's remark linking the inter-Yemeni dialogue to the security and stability of the Arabian Peninsula, the sources said that Yemen is fully prepared to cooperate with brothers in Saudi Arabia to achieve stability through constructive brotherly dialogue between the two Muslim, sisterly, neighboring countries.

'Fraction' of Weapons Smuggled by South Received

LD1709175594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1611 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Aden, 17 Sep—Yemeni military sources mentioned here today that a fraction of all the weapons and vehicles smuggled by the southern Yemeni forces, which were under the control of Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid when he escaped to the Sultanate of Oman via Hadramut Governorate in the aftermath of the entry of the northern Yemen forces to Aden on 7 July, yesterday returned to Yemen.

The KUNA correspondent in Aden learned that Yemen was still awaiting the rest of the sophisticated weapons, including MIG-29 planes and self-propelled guns, which were in Muscat where 'Ali Salim al-Bid was living at that time. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Basindwah Returns From Cairo

JN1709210294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah returned to Sanaa from Cairo tonight after leading our country's delegation to the meetings of the Arab League Council's 102d session, which was held in Cairo from 14-15 September. In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the brother minister said that the Arab League Council issued a statement at the end of its meetings. In the statement, the council congratulates our Yemeni people for the victory of their homeland's unity and the return of stability.

The statement calls on all the member countries to contribute to rebuilding what has been damaged by the crisis and help Yemen overcome the repercussions of this crisis.

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Moreover, the council also issued a number of resolutions and recommendations dealing with the topics on its agenda. Topping the list were the Palestine question and the situation in Somalia.

Trade Minister, Deputy Suspended After Dispute

MM1609124594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Excerpt] Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has decided to suspend Supply and Trade Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Bafadil and his deputy Muhammad Ahmad al-Himi after a dispute flared up between them, assigning a deputy prime minister to oversee the ministry's work.

Yemeni sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the sharp differences between the minister, who belongs to the Yemeni Reform Grouping, and his deputy, a General People's Congress member, erupted following a misunderstanding over how the ministry should be run. They developed into a dispute over the ministry's seal.

The sources said that the deputy minister decided to have his own official seal for the ministry after the minister ordered that the ministry's official seal not be used to stamp the instructions and correspondence signed by his deputy.

The sources said he considered that an enchroachment on his powers, so he issued a strongly worded memorandum suspending the salaries of all ministry employees using the deputy's seal, which he described as forged. [passage omitted]

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'Aziz Denies 'Any' Israeli Contacts

JN1709110894 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Sep 94 pp 1, 25

[Report by Mustafa Kamil from Baghdad]

[Text] A prominent Iraqi official has denied any contact on any level between Iraq and Israel at any time.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said claims of contacts between Iraq and Israel are baseless. He stressed that there are no grounds to presume that such contacts would help lift the blockade, and that basically, Israel has no interest in this.

He said several circles peddled such claims during the Iraq-Iran war. These were based on an alleged Israeli role in ending the war, to the effect that Iraq could get Israeli aid, and consequently U.S. aid, to enable it to end its war with Iran. He pointed out that events have refuted such claims made at that time.

The Iraqi official said he is not one of those who completely believe U.S. decisionmaking is controlled by the Jewish lobby in the United States. However, he said this lobby plays a very influential role in drawing U.S. policy toward the Arab homeland and the region surrounding it. He noted that the ruling establishment in the United States (the U.S. Administration, the Congress, the Pentagon, the CIA, and businessmen) desire to give such a role to the American Jewish lobby.

'Aziz spoke about some strong secondary contradictions between both sides' views, objectives, and strategy, considering that the Jewish lobby is part of the ruling establishment in the United States, and not an external power pressuring this establishment to influence it.

He said Arab regimes that participated, along with the United States, in the aggression against Iraq, are now suffering from extremely serious political, security, social, and economic crises. He noted that some of these regimes, which constitute part of the elements which guarantee Israel's current power, are expected to change in an atmosphere of growing activity by Islamic groups against these regimes. This is a clear reference to Egypt.

Tariq 'Aziz, who is currently on a visit to the United States which could last more than three weeks, said the U.S. Administration, which was the major force that carried out the military aggression against Iraq, is still the main obstacle to lifting the blockade, with the objective of weakening Iraq, changing its national leadership and regime, and bringing another regime that is agent to it.

'Aziz explained that important circles in the U.S. Administration are now confident that U.S. wishes in this regard cannot be achieved despite all the efforts of the United States, its allies in the region, and its agents holding Iraqi nationality.

The prominent Iraqi official said Europe's national interests require Iraq's return to its natural position, so economic relations can resume with it. He said continuing to besiege and weaken Iraq is only a U.S. objective. He indicated that the sharp contrast between the objectives of the parties to the anti-Iraq alliance has resulted in a contrast between the positions of the U.S. Administration and the European partners at the Security Council.

'Aziz emphasized that the American will at the Security Council and in the world is not an absolute will, despite the fact that the United States is the most powerful and influential state in the world. For many reasons, however, the United States cannot impose its will on other states as it pleases all the time. He indicated that the U.S. position against Iraq at the Security Council is an isolated position, now that the legal and technical pretexts have been removed. The United States has used these pretexts to cover its tendentious political position. This is because Iraq fulfilled its commitments in accordance with the Security Council resolutions.

'Aziz explained that the near future will see further clarity in the positions of the states that do not have any tendentious political objective against Iraq, particularly the important states inside and outside the Security Council whose interests are severely harmed by the continued blockade, whose justifications are now null and void.

'Aziz said lifting the blockade on Iraq is an Iraqi issue, and that Iraq's political, economic, and social steadfastness as well as the adherence to the national principles by the Iraqi people and leadership have all changed the international position against Iraq. This steadfastness will also change the U.S. position.

However, 'Aziz, who directly supervises Iraqi diplomacy even after leaving the foreign ministry's portfolio, said the U.S. Administration's failure to change its position against Iraq—which can basically be done—for such reasons as this administration's weakness and hesitation, or for short-sighted domestic reasons, will result in a crisis. He, however, emphasized that Iraq, which does not seek any crisis with the United States, does not fear such an inevitable crisis if the United States insists on its intransigent position against Iraq.

'Aziz pointed out that if a confrontation occurs, regardless of its kind and severity, between the position supporting Iraq and the intransigent position against Iraq, the Iraqi position will be strong. He explained that Iraq's continued steadfastness and adherence to principles will inevitably result in detente.

French Parliamentary Delegation Received

JN1809205394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received a French parliamentary delegation led by

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(Jano Lakaz), member of the French National Assembly and the European Parliament, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker reviewed the negative repercussions of the continued sanctions on the Iraqi people, underlining the great shortages in food, medicine, and other requirements.

The head of the French parliamentary delegation stated that he will do his utmost to return the Iraqi-French ties to normal, and mobilize the French public in favor of lifting the sanctions clamped on the Iraqi people.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Safa' Salih al-'Umar, chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the National Assembly.

The French parliamentary delegation arrived in Baghdad at dawn today on a short visit during which it will hold talks with several Iraqi officials.

Russian Parliamentary Team Concludes Visit

JN1709190494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] A Russian parliamentary delegation led by Aleksey Romanov, vice chairman of the Russian Parliament's Foreign Relations committee, left Baghdad today at the conclusion of a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Aleksey Romanov described his visit to Iraq as successful. He said the visit achieved fruitful and constructive results that will bolster relations between the two friendly countries in the interests of their peoples. He said: We view with admiration and appreciation the Iraqis' steadfastness and sacrifices in defense of their homeland and nation against the U.S.-imperialist threats. He (?commended) Iraq's brave stands and determination to abort all schemes being implemented by the United States and its henchmen to control the region.

At the conclusion of his statement, he condemned the continued U.S. plots against Iraq to undermine its security and sovereignty. He also condemned the U.S. stands contradicting the will of the international community, which is demanding that the blockade imposed on Iraq be lifted. He noted that the blockade has caused women, children, and the elderly immense suffering as a result of the acute food and medicine shortage.

'Scenarios' Viewed for U.S. Haiti 'Aggression'

JN1809092294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has said the American scenarios for aggression on and an invasion of Haiti in many ways find parallels in the runup to the aggression and attempted invasion of Iraq.

He told INA today that the United States sees the post-cold war detente as a blank check for it to fashion the world so as to advance its own interests without regard to the national peculiarities of independent, sovereign states.

The 30-state aggression on Iraq failed to realize its evil political objectives. Iraq's national peculiarities withstood the test. The U.S. plans to mold Iraq to suit its own exploitative interests, the foreign minister noted, have also crashed.

Al-Sahhaf was asked about the parallels between former President Jimmy Carter's current mission in Haiti and Perez de Cuellar's when the former UN chief was sent to Baghdad shortly before the 30-state aggression in early 1991. The foreign minister said the Americans appear determined to follow the path of deception to the very end, although the bottom line, which is aggression, is a foregone conclusion. Al-Sahhaf said Mr. Carter's mission is identical to that of the former UN secretary general and that is to provide cover for predetermined aggression.

It is every fair observer's right to question the seriousness and intentions of such missions, which can only be described as the final touches on justifications for aggression and invasion, al-Sahhaf said.

BABIL: U.S. Invading Haiti Under UN Cover

JN1909100594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has said the United States is using the United Nations as a cover to invade sovereign independent states and change their regimes.

In an article by writer Naji al-Hadithi today, the paper adds that by invading Haiti the United States will set a new precedent after it used the United Nations as a tool to carry out a savage aggression against Iraq in 1991. That aggression also set a serious precedent in international relations.

In this regard, the paper points to U.S. officials' acknowledgement that they use the United Nations in their aggressive interventions. In his book entitled "Beyond Peace," issued after his death this year, Richard Nixon, a former U.S. president who was most influential in designing U.S. foreign policy in the past 50 years, said: When we intervene militarily to protect our interests, we should follow the example of President George Bush in the Gulf war. Let us use the United Nations and not the other way round.

BABIL says that using the United Nations as a tool to carry out an aggression was a very serious precedent. The United Nations is being used today to invade Haiti, the paper adds.

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U.S. Said Obstructing Efforts To Lift Sanctions

JN1609180694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1614 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, has said that the United States is obstructing the sincere international efforts to issue a resolution on lifting the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq.

The Iraqi representative told journalists today that although the UN Security Council and the permanent and nonpermanent member states have acknowledged Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations, there are powers inside the UN Security Council that shirk their commitments toward Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

He added that the U.S. Administration knows that the Iraqi position on the UN resolutions, especially Resolution 687 and Paragraph 22 of Part C of the resolution, is legal and sound. Therefore, motivated by its historic animosity toward Iraq, and for known political purposes, the U.S. Administration continues its efforts to delay the adoption of a resolution on lifting the blockade that has lost all justification.

Responding to a question on the stands of other Security Council member states, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that the positive stands voiced for months by Russia, China, France, Spain, Nigeria, Brazil, and other states together constitute explicit recognition of the soundness of Iraq's position and its right to have the blockade lifted.

He said that the growing international understanding of Iraq's rights, the efforts to remove the injustice suffered by its people, and the growing positive stands inside and outside the Security Council will lead to isolating those discordant voices that still insist on maintaining the unfair blockade in defiance of the will of the international community.

Concluding, Dr. Najm said that all factors in the international community support the lifting the blockade as soon as possible. On top of those factors is the Iraqis' will, steadfastness, confrontation of the multi-phased aggression, and their confidence in their historic leadership.

Turkey's Border 'Move' Indicates Change

JN1809111494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—BABIL has emphasized that Turkey's ban on crossings through the al-Khabur border point to northern Iraq without official Iraqi approval highlight important and fundamental indications of U.S. Administration policy.

In an article published today, the paper said these indications are that the U.S. ability to pressure Turkey into adopting an anti-Iraq policy is declining and that the illusion of introducing changes in Iraq in order to serve America's interests has been debunked, thanks to boundless Iraqi steadfastness.

The Turkish Government, the paper added, can no longer deny that sanctions have become a destructive tool threatening Turkey's security and stability. It has realized the role of the elements of treason and sabotage in northern Iraq is now all but finished.

The espionage, sabotage, misinformation, and corruption the gangs of agents engaged in on orders from American and Zionist intelligence experts who set up offices in the area have failed miserably. Our Kurdish people remain faithful to great Iraq. They look forward to the tender hand of leader President Saddam Husayn healing the wounds inflicted by treachery and agentry.

The paper stressed that the Turkish move is a brilliant anticipation of a serious and major pro-Iraq development that will take place within months.

The paper said it hoped the Turks will continue to make the right reading of developments in order to take a bolder and clearer stand.

BABIL called on Iran to grasp the significance of the Turkish step and handle developments in northern Iraq more intelligently.

Saddam Husayn Receives Azerbaijani Delegation

JN1709175594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has received an oral message from Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev. The message was conveyed by Elchin Efendiyev, Azerbaijan's deputy prime minister, who is leading a large delegation on a visit to the country to take part in the activities of the international festival on the 500th birthday anniversary of Iraqi poet Muhammad Bin-Sulayman Faddul al-Baghdadi. The message conveys the greetings of the Azerbaijani president, government, and people, and President Aliyev's good wishes for leader President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi government and people.

This came when the leader president received Elchin Efendiyev, Azerbaijan's deputy prime minister, and Sabir Rustemhanli, Azerbaijan's minister of information and press. The leader president asked the Azerbaijani guest to convey his own greetings and those of the government and people of Iraq to Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and the brotherly Azerbaijani people.

The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi.

Saddam: Capitalist Regimes 'Most Totalitarian'

JN1809160994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has stated that Western capitalist countries,

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as part of their media deception, have called socialist regimes totalitarian, because they pursue centralized planning formulas. For a long time, capitalist regimes have reproached socialist regimes, using this epithet. The criticism was not actually directed against these formulas per se; it was meant to undermine the purposes of socialism.

His excellency the president added: Capitalist regimes are the most totalitarian of all. They have a comprehensive theory that addresses all details and specific issues, and they seek to force it on other nations and communities through pressure and the use of force. For instance, the United States is pursuing a totalitarian theory in terms of theory and practice. It is threatening its allies; namely, Japan, Germany, and France. It is also threatening the PRC, Latin America, and other countries, and applying multifaceted pressures on them, including disturbing the free market economy, which it allegedly advocates. Thus, it forces them to import U.S. industrial and agricultural commodities, and enforces measures to obstruct their exports to the United States. Likewise, the United States, which is promoting American values and American culture, and seeks to force them on Europe and other world nations, has put immense pressure on France to make it facilitate the entry of American films and video cassettes into the French market. Nonetheless, France has managed to cope with these pressures, and to cut back on its imports.

His excellency the president added: These Western capitalists are fully aware that some Third World nations could form a bloc that might render their firms unable to tamper with the development processes of these nations if they adhere to their independence and draw up good plans for their economy and life, without revoking free management, initiative, and flexibility.

His excellency the president went on to say: We repeatedly addressed these facts in the seventies. We also discussed our concept of planned development. We said then that our regime required developed, intelligent, and flexible planning. We also said that our plans should have definite specifications and phases. We have had some success in this regard.

These remarks were made when the leader president, may God protect him, presided over the 19th cabinet session, which was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

During the session, the cabinet discussed a study on planning and streamlining non-irrigated farming in Iraq in a manner that would preserve natural pastures and increase agricultural production at the same time.

INC Reportedly Readying Army for Saddam's Fall

NC1809073594 Paris AFP in English 0426 GMT 18 Sep 94

[By Tolle Aram]

[Text] Shaqlawah, Iraq, Sept 18 (AFP)—The Iraqi opposition aims to build up an army of 8,000 soldiers based in the Kurdish-held north to take over the country on the fall of President Saddam Husayn.

In the Shaqlawah region, protected by a chain of mountains, the Iraqi National Congress (INC) runs three camps to train former militiamen and civilians to become disciplined soldiers.

"We have people from all over Iraq, Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Turkomans, even Christians," said the chief of one of the camps, Lieutenant Hammad al-Dulaymi, himself from western Iraq.

"Every month about 80 people flee from the rest of Iraq to northern Iraq, including three or four officers from the Iraqi army," he said. "They just walk over to the Kurdish lines."

The INC, a coalition of Arab and Kurdish opponents of Saddam, said earlier this month that Iraqi authorities had started to chop off the ears of criminals and army deserters.

Discontent is also on the rise because of the crippling UN sanctions in force since Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, according to the opposition.

The UN Security Council on Wednesday [14 September] renewed its embargo, which has led to spiralling inflation on food prices and the spread of poverty, for at least another two months.

Ghanim Jawad, an INC executive council member, said they were not out to attract defectors. "In fact, we prefer the opponents of Saddam Husayn to stay where they are. They are much more effective there than here," he explained.

People entering northern Iraq, which has been under the control of the Kurds since 1991 in defiance of Baghdad, are first checked by Kurdish intelligence officers, said al-Dulaymi.

"Afterwards, our own intelligence department investigates every man before he can join our forces," he said.

General Qasim 'Ali, a Shiite who deserted from the Iraqi army, said the build-up of the INC army started last year with 250 militiamen. "Now we have about 750 soldiers," he said.

But heavy fighting since May between rival Kurdish groups that has claimed hundreds of lives has slowed down the process.

The general said 400 INC soldiers were deployed in the Irbil region, where the Kurds have set up their own administration, to man checkpoints and serve as a neutral force between the warring militias.

But now with the return of relative calm, the INC would push ahead with plans to build an 8,000-strong force.

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Lieutenant Colonel Mukhtar Ahmad, a 37-year-old Turkoman, said the army would be split into two units: special forces for city and street fighting, and a separate force trained for the mountains and marches.

Several officers told AFP they wanted to help create a new Iraq.

"We don't want to fight, but we want to be ready for the day when the Baghdad regime collapses. We all want a united Iraq but with a federated system," said Shalid Muhammad, a 33-year-old pilot who defected last month.

The soldiers, aged between 18 and 40, are trained to use light and medium weapons. They also receive political classes on the "abuses of Saddam" and the "meaning of democracy."

An unmarried cadet is paid 1,000 Iraqi dinars a month, compared to 400 dinars for a Kurdish civil servant and from 400-1,200 dinars for militiamen.

Food and medical services are free of charge, and the INC runs its own hospital in Shaqlawah.

The INC has launched a recruitment drive on Kurdish radio and television stations, attracting many for economic reasons. "I was unemployed," said a 50-year-old former carpenter.

Others sign up on for the ideology. "I couldn't stand the regime any longer. I want democracy, not dictatorship," said Kamal Shimal, a 20-year-old student from an industrial school in Karkuk, just south of the Kurdish-held zone.

Barzani, Talabani Trip To Paris Postponed

JN1609193594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The KHABAT newspaper reports that the trip to Paris planned by Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani will most probably be postponed until next month. It is reported that they will not go during September.

It is worth mentioning that two dates were fixed for signing the Paris agreement this month. However, the signing was postponed for circumstances and problems related to travel arrangements in addition to the unstable conditions in the Kurdistan region.

On another level, efforts are continuing to hold the Kurdistan National Conference. Arrangements include a meeting of the political leadership of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front to be held shortly to put the final touches to plans related to the conference's date, venue, and agenda.

Regime Launches New Attacks Against Marshes

NC1809163794 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has declared that troops belonging to the ruling regime in Baghdad have recently carried out fresh military attacks against the al-'Amarah Governorate's marshes, killing and wounding a large number of people, destroying dozens of villages and homes, and evicting people from their areas of residence.

In a memorandum sent to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, the Security Council permanent member states, and the special commissioner for human rights in Iraq, SAIRI noted that Saddam Husayn's bloody regime continues to evict people from villages in the marshlands. It forced more than 200 families to leave for barren and isolated areas on the outskirts of al-Diwaniyah Governorate. SAIRI called on the international community to implement UN Resolution 686 against the repression of the Iraqi people, who are subject to constant and flagrant abuse of their human rights at the hands of the Baghdad regime's terrorist agencies.

SAIRI renewed its appeal to [words indistinct] to send international observers [words indistinct] human rights to assess the terrorist situation continuously experienced by the people and to write reports about it.

Opposition Says Army Deserters Number 68,000

NC1809164994 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Reliable sources in the Mobilization and Statistics Department of the Defense Ministry in Baghdad have reported that the number of army deserters, including reservists, reached 68,000 persons at the end of July, excluding those from the northern governorates of Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Dahuk.

The same sources pointed out that a report to this effect has been sent to the so-called Armed Forces General Command at the personal and direct request of tyrant Saddam Husayn. The sources noted that this figure constitutes more than one-tenth of the total number of armed force personnel in Iraq.

Opposition Leader Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC1809154494 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation [IBC] has announced that Dr. Ahmad al-Shalabi, one of the leaders of the Unified National Iraqi Congress, has been subjected to an assassination attempt by the ruling regime in Baghdad, which assigned one of its agents to fire a rocket at al-Shalabi's residence in Salah al-Din in northern Iraq yesterday.

In a statement distributed today, the IBC added that Dr. al-Shalabi escaped the attempt on his life, which occurred last night. The IBC did not give further details on the assassination attempt, but it held the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn responsible [words indistinct] for liquidating its enemies and [words indistinct].

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Kurdish Official Killed, 1 Wounded in 2 Attacks

NC1609203694 Paris AFP in English 1957 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Sept 16 (AFP)—A Kurdish official has been shot dead and another lost both his hands in two separate attacks in northern Iraq, a spokesman from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said Friday [16 September].

Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman from the KDP told AFP Rahman Taha, "a commander of the KDP was shot dead yesterday morning (Thursday) in Irbil on the streets while he was driving to his office."

He added the same day another commander Mamman Kashkan "received a letter bomb" which exploded in his hands, causing him to lose them both.

A traffic policeman was also killed in the letterbomb attack, he added.

Neither attack was claimed by any group.

The two attacks were also confirmed by Fu'ad Ma'sum, a leading member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control with the backing of a US-led coalition and in defiance to Baghdad, since the end of the January-February 1991 Gulf war.

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Minister Confirms 'Secret Meetings' With Syria

TA1909141894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer confirms that secret meetings have been held with Syria, and while they were not on a ministerial level, the level of these talks was the same that brought about other spectacularly successful peace agreements.

Minister Ben-Eli'ezer told our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the appearance of pro-peace slogans in Syria was no coincidence. In his opinion, it proved that the secret Israeli- Syrian contacts had made progress. He believed Syrian authorities were doing a better job than Israel preparing public opinion for progress in talks.

Rabin on Talks With Syria, U.S. Peace Efforts

NC1609151594 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 16 Sep 94 p 8

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Sana' al-Sa'id in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] Why does Israel try to give everyone the impression that it is a victim amongst Arab states lying in wait for it, while the truth of the matter is that Israel is adopting hostile policies to cover up its real goals; namely, to impose hegemony on the region?

[Rabin] What hegemony are you talking about? We aspire for and look forward to peace. What I am about to tell you here will confirm that from the start Israel has endeavored to achieve peace. In 1949 I was a member of the delegation that held truce talks with the Egyptians on the island of Rhodes. After the agreement was signed, I sat down with Colonel Mahmud Riyad [who later became Egyptian foreign minister] and asked him: Why don't we establish peace now in accordance with the existing lines; that is, the truce lines? Riyad answered: We cannot have peace with Israel.

Before that and in 1948 I was deputy commander of troops on the Egyptian front and Yigal Allon was the commander. I met with [late Egyptian president Jamal] 'Abd-al-Nasir when an Egyptian brigade was under siege in the Falujah. At the time, 'Abd-al-Nasir was the brigade's liaison officer. I invited the brigade [as published] for lunch at the Kibbutz Gat. I asked 'Abd-al-Nasir to convince the commander, a General Taha, to come over and trust us and that we would guarantee the safety of the brigade and the safe return of the personnel to their positions. 'Abd-al-Nasir managed to persuade General Taha to come to the kibbutz. During lunch, I sat next to 'Abd-al-Nasir and talked about peace. I was surprised to hear 'Abd- al-Nasir say: This war is against the wrong enemy and is at the wrong place and time. Our mission, he added, is to liberate Egypt from British occupation. In 1952 the officers' revolution broke out and I heard that 'Abd-al-Nasir was the main figure in the revolution. Thus, I expected that there would be a good chance for peace between Egypt and Israel. However, developments were painful and tragic. We had no choice but to have a strong army. We were threatened with war at all times. The truth that transpired later is that when a leader who truly wanted peace came, he made peace, and I mean President al-Sadat. President al-Sadat convinced Israel that the leader of the biggest Arab state could make peace. When he wanted to make peace, the regional problem did not cause him any problem at all.

[Al-Sa'id] If the opposite were true and you were to initiate peace with Syria, what would you do to show that Israel indeed wants peace?

[Rabin] I can confirm that Israel wants peace and security. Israel believes this is the best solution for both of us. I think that the negotiations between Syria and Israel should be conducted calmly and far from the media's spotlights.

[Al-Sa'id] Is it possible that talks in Washington could be held without the media or limelights?

[Rabin] Impossible. Washington talks are not enough. We had talks with the PLO in Oslo for seven months without the media and we succeeded. We also held secret talks with Jordan on 19 May and I met with King Husayn in London. We talked freely and we achieved good results. We later went to Washington to announce the agreement. The same thing happened with Egypt. Prior to al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977, we had contacts with [al-Sadat's adviser] Hasan al-Tuhami. I am confident that if matters were conducted quietly and secretly with Syria, we would be able to achieve an agreement.

[Al-Sa'id] But you must show signs of goodwill to Syria by announcing that you intend to effect a full withdrawal from the Golan.

[Rabin] If we do that, we will be at the end of the negotiations.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Warren Christopher's upcoming tour. Do you expect anything from this tour? Also, do you have any suggestions? Do you pin great hopes on Christopher's tours?

[Rabin] We always hope for the best. But we will not present new proposals this time, because we know the Syrian stand and the Syrians know our stand. All we seek is to have matters clarified.

[Al-Sa'id] What have Christopher's shuttle visits between Damascus and Jerusalem achieved so far, and do you expect anything from such visits although they have not activated the situation so far?

[Rabin] We support and encourage Warren Christopher's visits between Jerusalem and Damascus, because we believe that the United States has always tried to bring about Syrian-Israeli contacts.

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Papers on Haiti Issue, Clinton, Israeli Role

TA1809125194

[Editorial Report] Almost all the Israeli dailies on 18 September carry editorials and commentaries on Haiti and the impending U.S. invasion. The papers offer a spectrum of views that discuss Clinton's initiative to invade Haiti; whether the invasion is necessary; its chances for success and U.S. public support for or against the invasion. The papers which address Israel's role favor the support Israel has promised to extend.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew, in its daily column on foreign affairs on page A12, carries a 400-word commentary by Nitzan Horowitz entitled "From Kuwait to Haiti", which casts doubt on the U.S. move stating "Haiti could become the first war for Bill Clinton after he was able to free himself with surprising ease from the Somali fiasco." The commentary says that Clinton's administration has failed to win public support for "a vague cause such as restoring democracy and human rights in Haiti, which has never known democracy." The administration failed to explain why a dictatorship in Haiti "is a threat to American national interests," and "the claim that the poor boat men are a threat is not serious." The article also asserts that reinstating Jean-Bertrand Aristide "is not simple, as there is doubt concerning his ability to lead Haiti." The chances of the operation succeeding, HA'ARETZ concludes "as proven in Somalia, are not brilliant."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew carries on page 9, an 800-word editorial entitled "To The Third Power" which reviews recent developments in Haiti and the United States which led to the current state of affairs. Commenting on Jimmy Carter's mission, DAVAR says: "Carter has become the envoy par excellence speaking on behalf of the U.S. Administration, whether he has been appointed in advance or retroactively confirmed as one. After his talks with Kim Il Song of North Korea and his current talks with Cedras in Haiti, Carter appears to be the call-in candidate as Clinton's envoy for talks with Hafiz al-Asad of Syria—or perhaps it would be better to wait and see whether Carter's magical powers would affect Cedras as they had Kim, who miraculously died several weeks after meeting Carter."

On a more serious note, however, DAVAR's view is clear: "Clinton has not convinced the American public and elected leaders that the Haiti operation is essential—certainly if it entails casualties, and even if it's scope is narrowed to imposing a form of occupation- policing regime with an unclear ending." "There is no guarantee that Cedras and his men would be able to restrain their supporters, nor is it certain that the deposed-returned President Aristide would wish or be able to make good on his promises and prevent his men from carrying out acts of revenge. Either way, the Americans are in for a serious entanglement in Haiti, which would distract them from places in the world that need their leadership more."

No less cautious, but somewhat more optimistic, is the page 6 editorial of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English entitled "Countdown to Quagmire." Viewing Haiti as a "basket case," the 1,200-word editorial says: "Now Clinton is about to step into the corrupt, vicious and treacherous ooze. He will be extremely lucky to emerge unsullied. However, the confidence with which he has handled the escalation so far gives some ground for the hope that he knows what he is doing—a confidence likely to be grounded in assurances from the military chiefs that the advance training for the invasion has gone well." The POST doubts that Cedras "remains determined to pit his ragged army of 7,000-ill trained and inept thugs against the American invasion fleet." It also rejects claims made in the United States and elsewhere about the U.S. colonial aspirations saying that "colonial powers did not seek international mandates for their conquests."

The POST concludes: "It seems that these facts may be dawning on the American public in the past few days. As one news agency said, Haiti is a tough case to make as a vital U.S. interest, yet since President Clinton's televised address on Thursday, public opposition to the invasion has dropped from 75 percent to 60 and is till going down. As forces are committed, it is inevitable that public opinion will swing further in their support.

"Cedras has been making capital from the fact that Americans were hostile and the world apparently indifferent to Clinton's Haiti policy. The general's capital has now run out. It would be a blessing if he would now follow it."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew carries a 250-word editorial entitled "A Minute Before the Invasion" on page 3 of the daily HAYOM supplement, which states: "In a desperate effort to salvage his prestige and credibility in the eyes of the U.S. public, President Clinton yesterday sent Jimmy Carter to the Haiti leaders with an offer to choose between resignation or invasion." "If he fails, a military invasion will be inevitable." MA'ARIV says that Clinton sent the delegation after failing "to convince the U.S. public to support the military invasion." "The delegation to Haiti is hhe last means Clinton uses in an attempt to extricate himself from the entanglement he found himself in: If he calls off the operation, he would be considered a paper tiger. If he orders the invasion and American troops are killed in unnecessary fighting, the American people will not forgive him," the editorial concludes.

Holding just the opposite view, the Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT's 400-word editorial entitled "Democracy by Force" on page 2 says: "In a dramatic speech to the nation, the President has managed to change American public opinion and convinced it of the necessity of a military operation in Haiti." It also says that by sending the mediation delegation to Haiti, Clinton "showed he is not trigger happy," while firmly believing that "the United States may use force to impose democracy." The

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editorial also positively views Israel's agreement to take part in the international policing force, saying that "the international war for democracy and human rights is now our war as well."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR carries a 1,400-word commentary by Aharon Klein and an 800-word editorial on the Haiti issue on page 9, both addressing mainly the issue of Israel's role in the affair. The commentary, entitled "Haiti or Not," reviews Israel's record in extending international aid, and the current U.S. request to partake in the police force for Haiti, saying: "Over the years, the world has been turning a blind eye to violent American activities in its back yard, such as the invasions of Panama and Grenada, as well as the heavy CIA involvement in the politics of Central and South America." Although Klein sees a problem there, and a "subdued fear that Israel might become the executioner of U.S. policies," "it is hard to say no to the biggest world superpower which does not avoid sending troops to our southern, and perhaps even northern, border." "It is hard to say no to a President of a superpower that gives us the very essential annual sum of $3 billion." Therefore, "although it is hard to decide, we must help the Americans on this issue because when America asks, one must not refuse. Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, this time found a solution that can be called elegant. He will not be sending troops, he will send retired and volunteer policemen, and will continue walking between the raindrops. He said yes to the Americans, while evoking no public opposition in Israel."

The 'AL HAMISHMAR editorial, entitled "A Democratic Mission" is in favor of both the U.S. invasion and the Israeli involvement: "The United States is not eager to battle, and by traveling there, Carter gave the Haitian leaders an ultimatum by which they may quit of their own accord, and it is to be hoped that they will take advantage of this last-minute grace period. If, however, they fail to do so, the international community must remove them just at it removed Saddam from Kuwait.

"Israel can only take pride in making a modest contribution—symbolic more than practical—to the U.S. Government effort to reinstate the democratic regime of elected President Aristide." If this last attempt by Jimmy Carter—who, incidentally, is a candidate for the Nobel peace prize, which he deserves—there will be no other way but to remove the corrupt junta with the means the United States and the international community still have left."

Egyptian Paper Interviews Peres on Peace With Syria

NC1709084394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Israel is ready to make concessions for the sake of peace. "We seriously seek peace with Syria, and if Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad wants to live in peace, he should declare this peace and make it known to everybody," he said.

In a statement to the Cairo-based AKHBAR AL-YAWM newspaper in today's issue, the Israeli foreign minister said: "We do not want to occupy any territory; we only want to ensure our security. If we understand President al-Asad's wishes, he also should understand ours."

Peres said he is optimistic about the possibility of achieving peace in the Middle East. "Despite what people in Israel and the Arab world say, I am optimistic because what makes a country strong is not bombs and territory, but science and technology," he said.

If we want to build the future of the region, Peres added, we must ward off the danger of war and devote our time to development and economic cooperation.

On withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights and reports that Israel intends to hold a referendum on it, Peres said: "The referendum will not be about the land of the Golan, but about Israel's withdrawal from it."

On another question about the same subject, Peres said: "Syria will remain the owner of the land if it does not attack Israel. We are talking about our security, not their land, and there is a big difference here."

Asked about his statements made in April that a withdrawal from the Golan could be done in five to eight years, the Israeli foreign minister said: Syria rejected this and said it wanted full and immediate withdrawal before the negotiations.

Peres said that this is not possible. We cannot abandon everything and then negotiate, he said.

He added: I now propose that we negotiate all issues at the same time: Withdrawal, the nature of peace, the nature of security, and the timing for the entire process. I propose that all these issues be discussed at the same time.

Rabin: PLO 'Exaggerated' Demands Delay Elections

TA1809114894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Report by political correspondent 'Udi Segal]

[Excerpt] During today's cabinet session Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that exaggerated PLO demands concerning elections are holding up negotiations on this issue. The prime minister said through elections, the Palestinians are trying to gain more sovereignty symbols. One example is the PLO's demand for a 100-member legislative council. According to Israel's interpretation such a body is out of the question. Instead, Israel talks about an administrative council of 30 members.

The cabinet also discussed the issue of Palestinian control over East Jerusalem. Prime Minister Rabin expressed concern over the influence and control exercised by the Palestinians in this part of the capital. He cited as an example a gold theft in East Jerusalem several

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weeks ago. The police failed to apprehend the thieves, but the Palestinians disseminated a leaflet warning that anyone caught with the gold will lose his hands and feet. A short time later the gold was returned to its owners. [passage omitted]

Officials Cited on U.S. Orders To Sever Iraqi Ties

NC1909105594 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Report by Barry Parker]

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 19 (AFP)—Israel has totally severed tentative links with Iraq under orders from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin after an angry warning from the United States, senior officials said Monday.

Two Israeli ministers born in Iraq launched contacts during July as Baghdad pushed for an easing of UN sanctions imposed since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the officials, who refused to be named, told AFP.

Washington was reportedly furious as was Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who had been kept in the dark.

Israel's Washington embassy cabled a warning that the Americans, who provide three billion dollars in annual economic and military aid, were shouting about the "chutzpah" (or gall) of Jerusalem.

"The Americans at least deserved to be consulted about something as radical as this," admitted a foreign ministry official, who demanded anonymity.

Rabin, who was in the opposition when President Saddam Husayn fired 39 Scud missiles at the Jewish state, could only agree with Washington and in August slapped a strict veto on any further contact.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal met Iraq's ambassador to Switzerland in Geneva during July prompting the American wrath, the officials said. The ambassador is said to have close relations with president Husayn.

The minister strenuously denied the meeting.

And Housing Minister Ben-Eli'ezer had contact with senior Iraqi officials in Morocco about the same time, the officials added.

In London, THE SUNDAY TIMES reported that Ben-Eli'ezer met Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz in Rabat. Ben-Eli'ezer issued a strong denial.

The Foreign Ministry also released a statement Monday saying the TIMES report of the secret talks, sourced to Britain's Secret Intelligence Service MI6, was "without any foundation".

Beyond the potential of cheap oil for Israel in return for pressure to lift the UN sanctions, certain Israeli politicians think Iraq should be brought into a strategic secular block alongside Egypt and Syria to oppose Islamic fundamentalism.

Despite Rabin's veto, Israeli President Ezer Weizman in his Jewish new year address two weeks ago indicated that Israel should in the long-term reconsider Iraq's isolation.

Weizman suggested that in the new Middle East, Iraq should be brought into a a strategic alliance of secular states.

Insiders say Ben-Eli'ezer and Shahal both harbour romantic illusions about their Baghdad birthplace which they left in their teens. The pair speak fluent Iraqi Arabic.

"They have a thing about their roots and would like to visit their homes where their relatives are buried," one MP said. "Despite Saddam, the Iraqis are not barbarians and deserve better in their eyes."

During the Gulf War, Labour MPs nicknamed the pair "Saddam's Republican Guard", because even then they refused to give up all belief in Baghdad.

In Jerusalem, pundits expect the two to bide their time and renew secret contacts again as soon as they feel the time is right.

UN Ambassador Meets With Iraqi Diplomat

TA1809193694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi last week held a private meeting with an Iraqi diplomat who serves as UN deputy secretary general. The two discussed, among other things, the Middle East peace process, and the Iraqi representative reiterated that Iraq supports the Israeli-PLO agreement.

Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen also reports that Afghanistan is showing signs that it is interested in a rapprochement with Israel. Israeli legations recently started receiving official diplomatic mail from Afghanistan on a routine basis.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Denies Iraqi Contacts

TA1909110694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Douglas Davis and David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Washington and Jerusalem were yesterday said to be on a collision course over Israeli attempts to draw Baghdad into an expanded Middle East peace process and dilute the existing UN sanctions against Iraq, according to sources in London.

Citing British intelligence yesterday, THE SUNDAY TIMES reported that senior Israeli officials and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz had secretly met in the Moroccan capital of Rabat last month to discuss "an accommodation." [passage omitted]

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However, Israeli officials yesterday denied a summit meeting has occurred with Iraqi leaders, or that Israel was pursuing any deal with the Iraqis.

Officials say Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is unequivocal that such contacts must be avoided at all costs, as it can only weaken the resolve of the international UN sanctions against Iraq.

Participants in a closed door meeting of the Labor Party parliamentary faction last week cite Rabin as saying there were "signs" Baghdad's attitude toward Israel was undergoing change, but made clear that Israel would not meet with any Iraqi officials. [passage omitted] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 19 September, in a page 3 ITIM report, adds: "The Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday said all the rumors which have recently been spread regarding purported contacts between Israel and Iraq are entirely baseless."]

Sarid: Golan Heights 'Bargaining Chip' Since '67

TA1709170894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid said his Meretz bloc believes that since 1967 the Golan Heights have served as a bargaining chip for Israel to make peace with Syria. Speaking at the start of a Meretz campaign called Sukot Shalom [Tabernacles of Peace], Sarid said peace is now attainable and Golan residents must act responsibly and recognize the need for painful territorial concessions to reach a vital peace treaty with Syria. Sarid added that he regrets the fact that in the past Israeli leaders have led Golan residents to believe that their presence would be permanent. He said this was an illusion that was found to explode.

The opposition Likud is demanding that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reveal what it calls the secret channels in which negotiations with Syria are being conducted. Likud Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben- Elisar called on the prime minister to appear before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to receive its approval before continuing any contacts with the Syrians.

Intelligence Sees 'Violent Opposition' in Haiti

TA1809113594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] According to Israeli intelligence information, an international force in Haiti will encounter violent opposition from local residents. In any case, Israel will stand by its pledge to dispatch police as part of the 1,500-strong international force. The subject was discussed this morning by former Police Commander Gabi Amir and senior police officers at police headquarters in Jerusalem.

The Israeli force, led by Amir, is due to comprise some 30 officers and police volunteers for the mission. The Israelis have also been asked to provide instruction to the Haiti Police force.

Minister Welcomes Shin Bet-Palestinian Cooperation

TA1809143094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] A new piece of interesting information was divulged during today's cabinet session. From Rabin's remarks it transpires that the Israeli Shin Bet is cooperating with Jibril al-Rujub's Palestinian security service in areas not included in the Palestinian autonomy. Answering a question posed by Minister Shim'on Shetrit in this issue, the prime minister confirmed this information. I asked Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, who is very familiar with the territories, to react to this report on cooperation between the Palestinian security service and the Israeli Shin Bet in the West Bank:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Eli'ezer] I must tell you that I welcome this. If both sides want to eradicate terrorism then significant cooperation between the two security services is very welcome.

[Raz] The police minister and the police are convinced, however, that Jibril al-Rujub is involved in various questionable activities.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I am speaking here about a principle, not about a particular person. We must not lose sight of the fact that we are still the ruling power in the territories; we are still responsible for law and order there—I am not referring here to Gaza and Jericho. If Jibril al-Rujub is required to give his explanation on various issues, then this is precisely what he has to do. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 18 September carries a report that adds: "Two senior representatives of the Israeli Shin Bet met with Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service, in Jericho over the weekend. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports the meeting was held in the framework of the cooperation between the Israeli Shin Bet and the Palestinian security service. The two asked Jibril al-Rujub to calm tempers in the West Bank, especially in Jericho, following the detention of his men. Al-Rujub complained that Israel Police have detained his three bodyguards without any justification, thereby harming his status and honor. At the end of the meeting the two sides concluded they have ironed out their differences and undertook to pursue their cooperation in good faith. Our correspondent adds that in the framework of the cooperation between Jibril al-Rujub's security apparatus and Israel, al-Rujub's men over the last few months located dozens of cars stolen from Israelis and turned them over to Israel Police. The stolen cars were located in various places in the West Bank, in Hebron, as well as in Jericho.]

The government also discussed the erosion in Israeli control over East Jerusalem, as well as the issue of elections in the territories. Minister Yosi Sarid said that

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the Palestinians have clearly violated the understandings regarding the format of the elections for the autonomy institutions. He said that if this continues there will be delays and the negotiations on this issue could be cut short.

[The Qol Yisra'el 1300 GMT newscast, reporting on the cabinet session, notes: "During today's cabinet session Minister Shulamit Aloni raised the Palestinians' call to hold general elections in the territories. Aloni told our correspondent she raised this issue following meetings abroad with Palestinian representatives who explained to her their position on this issue. The Palestinians claim that unless general elections are held in the territories, they will revert to a clan-oriented regime. The Palestinians also fear that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not redeploy outside the cities. They also voiced the concern that Israel wants to establish cantons instead of one Palestinian entity. Minister Aloni believes the Palestinians should not be prevented from holding general elections.]

Cabinet Backs Shin Bet, Police in Jewish Terror Issue

TA1809171194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] At its weekly session in Jerusalem, the cabinet rejected allegations that the Police and the General Security Service [GSS] ill-treated the Jews from Qiryat Arba', detained on suspicion of plotting terrorist attacks against Palestinians. The cabinet dismissed these allegations as tendentious, saying they were aimed at arousing sympathy for the suspects instead of the law enforcement agencies. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The cabinet heard a detailed report from the acting head of the GSS on the interrogation of the Qiryat Arba' Jews suspected of plotting terrorist attacks against Palestinians. The cabinet also heard a report from Dorit Beinisch, the state attorney, whose office investigated the complaints from the suspects' lawyers and families about the manner in which the suspects were being interrogated. In an official statement, the cabinet expressed the strongest displeasure over the allegations of ill-treatment, describing them as tendentious. It said they were aimed at creating support for the suspects instead of the law enforcement agencies. The cabinet warned that it is determined to enforce the law against anyone who conspires to commit murder on an egalitarian basis, meaning, regardless of whether the offender is an Arab or a Jew. The government would not tolerate terrorism from any quarter whatsoever, the cabinet statement said. The cabinet gave full backing to the Police and the GSS. On the face of it they foiled a plan to commit murder, the statement said.

The cabinet also heard a report from Minister of Police Moshe Shahal about the preparations to dispatch a contingent of police to Haiti at the request of the United States. Shahal said he believed the force would leave on Friday. It would consist of between 30 and 40 volunteers, all of officer rank. I asked Shahal if he is not concerned about the predictions that the police might be subjected to guerrilla attacks, or even common criminal violence:

[Shahal] Well, of course we are concerned. I think that there are going to be precautions by the military force, but still there is a concern. I hope that it is not going to be more dangerous to serve in Haiti than serving in the national countries where all of the police force are coming from. I believe that every police officer have a certain level of danger in performing his duties.

[Katzenell] An official source told me that police advisers from Israel and other countries may be sent to Haiti even if the Carter mission is successful and the American invasion is averted, because it will still be necessary to democratize the regime and establish the rule of law. [end recording]

IDF Establishes 'New Unit' To Evacuate Settlers

TA1909095394 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Nadav Ha'etzni]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has established a new unit which has already began training. Its main task will be to confront the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip if a decision to evacuate settlements is reached.

The candidates for the new unit underwent a rigorous selection process and were asked to sign a far-reaching commitment to maintain secrecy. The prospective recruits were presented with a series of questions in order to verify that they met the three requirements for acceptance into the unit: that they held widely different political positions from the settlers; that they had no relatives or friends in the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; and that they had no religious relatives or friends.

MA'ARIV has learned that the new unit has commenced training. Among other things, its members undergo commando training, sharpshooting practice, and study street warfare.

Sources close to the unit admit that its main mission is to intervene in the event of clashes with settlers who refuse to evacuate their homes. The senior political and military echelons decided to establish the unit after concern was voiced over possible insubordination in the IDF's regular units if soldiers were asked to evacuate settlements.

It has also been learned that several people who were asked to join the new unit refused on ideological grounds.

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Likud Seeks Debate on IDF 'Settler-Evacuation' Unit

TA1909095894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction is collecting the 30 signatures needed to convene a special Knesset session during the Sukkot holiday in order to discuss what they call the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] new settler-evacuation unit.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Knesset Member Limor Livnat claims that the entrance requirements to the unit sow the seeds for internecine conflict because the soldiers are asked to declare that they have no relatives in the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and that they support the government's policy.

Military sources told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the Army has not established any special unit to evacuate settlers. Our correspondent notes that the reference is to a Military Police company which was ordered to prevent rioting by both Arabs and Jews. This is in the wake of criticism leveled several months ago that the law was not sufficiently enforced in the territories. This company began operating in Judaea and Samaria two and a half months ago and its activity was reported in the media.

Establishment of Unit Denied

TA1909114194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has asserted that the reports of a special unit was established for the evacuation of settlers are totally baseless and unfounded. The IDF does not examine the political opinions of its recruits and does not select soldiers according to their beliefs. The only perquisite was that the soldier follow legal orders.

The spokesman confirmed that the IDF's Central Command had set up a Military Police company whose personnel were trained to prevent rioting by both Arabs and Jews. The only criterion for the unit's activity was to stop any violation of the law.

Nabulus Resident Stabs IDF Soldier in Petah Tiqva

TA1809094594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was wounded at the Geha Junction [near Petah Tiqva] this morning, and he is in moderate condition. The stabber, a Nabulus resident, has been detained. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that the soldier is being operated at Beilinson Hospital, where a large kitchen knife is being extracted from his back.

Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that following reports that the soldier had been attacked by two men, a large police force has been combing the vicinity of the Geha Highway since the morning.

Netanyahu on Likud Conditions for Golan Referendum

TA1809165494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu warns that unless the prime minister coordinates with the opposition the bill on a Golan Heights referendum, the Likud will not honor the results of such a referendum, if and when it returns to power. Netanyahu made these remarks during a visit of Likud and Moledet Knesset members [MK's] with the Gamla hunger strikers on the Golan Heights. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports:

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] Likud MK's Binyamin Netanyahu, Moshe Qatzav, and Moshe Nisim arrived at Gamla's protest tent to tell the Golan settlers that only an early agreement between Labor and the Likud on the formulation of the referendum will bind the Likud if it establishes the next government. This is what Likud Chairman Netanyahu said:

[Netanyahu] I prefer general elections. If the prime minister insists on a referendum, however, so be it, but he has to approach the Likud and work out with us the clauses of the referendum in a fair and equitable manner, then we will submit the issue for the public's decision now. We will honor the public's decision. What is taking place in practice, however, is that the government is not honoring the public's decision and is trying to force on it the desires of the extreme left, of 10 percent of the population. This is being forced on 90 percent of the population. We are against this; we want a real decision by the public now.

[Horowitz] Moledet MK's and a delegation of settlers from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip also visited Gamla today. Labor MK 'Imanu'el Zismann also visited the site, and announced his opposition to a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. [end recording]

Charges Against IDF Officer, Others Detailed

TA1609123094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by JERUSALEM POST staff and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Lt. Oren Edri, suspected of involvement with a new Jewish terrorist underground, was formally charged on Wednesday in Jaffa Military Court with, among other things, illegally holding and transferring arms, revealing classified information, and conduct unbecoming an officer.

According to the indictment, Edri received four blocks of plastic explosives from Lt. Qobi Pinto, who has also been

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arrested, and passed one of them on to Ya'aqov Ben-David, who was arrested but was released on Tuesday.

He allegedly took two other blocks of explosives from his unit and gave them to Elyashiv Keller, 23, of Qiryat Arba', who was arrested last week. Edri allegedly trained Keller in the use of these explosives.

The military prosecutor also said Edri had told General Security Service [GSS] investigators that he believed Keller was linked to the murder of three Palestinians near the village of Tarqumiyah in September 1992. Levi said Edri had quoted Keller as saying "that was an almost perfect operation."

Edri is also charged with giving another suspect, 'Ido Elba, information orally and in writing about the location of arms warehouses on two IDF bases in the South. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, court protocols from the Haifa Magistrate's and District courts dealing with the cases of two other suspects, Eytan and Yehoyada' Qahalani, were made public Wednesday, following a petition made by an ITIM reporter in Haifa.

According to the protocols, the judges involved have apparently not been presented with any evidence that the two are linked to serious crimes being attributed to the new underground, including the murder of three Palestinians near Tarqumiyah in 1992, the murder of an Arab taxi driver in Jerusalem in July, and a plot to attack Orient House, the PLO's Jerusalem headquarters.

According to the protocols, the two are alleged to have conspired with the others to organize for the purpose of carrying out attacks against Arabs, and to illegally obtain weapons.

According to ITIM, reporters were granted access to the protocols, even though the suspects' lawyers had not yet been given the information.

The Haifa District Court on Wednesday acceded to a request by the GSS and prevented the brothers from meeting with their lawyers until today, when another remand hearing is scheduled. [passage omitted]

Police Extend Kakh, Kahana Hay Offices Closure

TA1809102994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The Kakh and Kahana Hay offices will remain closed for six more months. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that policemen have pasted orders signed by the police commissioner on the doors of the movements' offices, announcing that the closure orders have been extended.

Kakh spokesman No'am Federman claims that the police are stringing him and his men along and acting contrary to their court statement.

Settler Leaders Criticize Remark Against Qiryat Arba'

TA1809165194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Tzvi Zinger]

[Text] A storm has erupted in Qiryat Arba' following remarks by Aharon Domb, spokesman of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Settlers Council, who called on parents and educators in Qiryat Arba' to urgently examine whether "something has gone wrong in the way they educate."

In a stormy meeting last night at the house of Tzvi Katzover, head of the Qiryat Arba' local council, some of the activists and public figures present called on the community to boycott Domb and suspend him from all the forums of which he is a member.

"Qiryat Arba' today is fertile soil for wild weeds," Domb said. "Certain circles, which are a minority here, find harming Arabs acceptable. If I find that I have become alienated in this place because of my views, I will have to draw personal conclusions and move to another settlement inside the Green Line for the sake of my children's education."

Do you not fear that you might become a target of threats and harassment? I asked him. "It is all right; I will live," he said.

This is not the first time that Domb has made comments that upset the Qiryat Arba' extremists. After the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs, he sharply condemned those who praised Barukh Goldstein's act. He later endured threats on his life, curses, and condemnations.

Tzvi Katzover last night reacted to Domb's remarks by saying that "Qiryat Arba' is fertile soil for the love of the land, Israel's martyrs, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. I deeply regret the remarks made by Domb, who is one of Qiryat Arba's greatest. Domb passes judgment on an entire community due to suspicions against several individuals which have not yet been proven in court."

No'am Arnon, spokesman of the Jewish residents of Hebron said: "Domb's remarks are very grave. This is a vicious defamation of a community that bravely withstands acts of terror."

Rabbi Eli'ezer Waldman: "No one in Qiryat Arba' has legitimized attacking Arabs, and it is not soil for wild weeds. As in every community, here too there are derelicts who feed on the crimes committed by the Israeli Government."

No'am Federman, Kakh Movement spokesman: "He who condemns the acts of Jews who are being pressed to the wall by the Israeli Government, which gives them no protection and forces them to rise and defend themselves, is a wild weed himself."

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Uri Ari'el, secretary general of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Settlers Council: "We encourage the residents of Qiryat Arba' who lived through a harsh period of terror attacks. As long as the detainees have not been put on trial and convicted, we regard them as innocent."

Kahana Hay Plans 'Jewish Settlement' in Jordan

TA1609112094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Report by Golan Yokhpaz, correspondent in the territories—recorded]

[Text] [Yokhpaz] Samaria settlers who are associated with the Kahana Hay movement have found several advantages inherent in the peace process between Israel and Jordan. Dozens of right-wing activists from Israel and abroad, affiliated with Betar and Kahana Hay intend to, or at least will try to, establish a first Jewish settlement in Jordan. They have a name for it, Naharayim, and the activists plan to enter Jordan legally. Holding dual citizenship, we will cross through the Israeli border crossing, Binyamin Kahana, head of the group, said.

[Kahana] The eastern bank of the Jordan River is an inseparable part of Eretz Yisra'el. This is the way it has always been, and we all know the song [Betar anthem]: The Jordan has two banks; this one is ours, the other one too. Unfortunately, even the followers of the teachings of Jabotinsky, who are supposed to adhere to this slogan, have forsaken it a long time ago.

[Yokhpaz] Until the border crossing between Israel and Jordan opens for holders of dual citizenship, Kahana, who himself has dual citizenship, believes that the United States will support the establishment of the settlement and will protect its inhabitants who will be establishing the first pioneering Jewish nucleus on the east bank.

[Kahana] In the first stage, we are talking of a relatively limited group of youths who will arrive at the site and start to simply take a hold of the place. At the moment, we have some 150 people, most of them from the United States.

[Yokhpaz] And what if the Jordanians are not too enthusiastic about this pioneering idea and throw you out of the site? we asked Kahana this morning. Why should they? he said, there will be peace, will there not?

Postal Ties Agreed With 10 Arab, Islamic States

TA1609180894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Ten Arab and Islamic countries have decided to establish postal relations with Israel. Our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor reports that this decision was made two days ago at the International Postal Union conference held in Seoul. The 10 countries which removed their reservations about establishing postal ties with Israel are: Jordan, Qatar, Oman, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Djibouti, Afghanistan, Brunei, and Indonesia. It is common knowledge that Egypt has maintained postal ties with Israel since 1979.

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No 'Military Forces' Planned for Haiti

JN1709190894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Here in Jordan, Minister of Information Dr. Jawad al-'Anani said that Jordan will not dispatch military forces to Haiti and that it will be playing a humanitarian role there. This came in the minister of information's response to a question by our political affairs correspondent.

[Begin al-'Anani recording] I hope we will rule out the misunderstanding on the part of some world news agencies that Jordan will dispatch military forces. Jordan will not in any way dispatch military forces. Jordan has been asked to play a humanitarian role and that of an observer, as required by such circumstances.

We hope that a peaceful and just solution will be reached—one that will do justice to the people. We also believe in rights everywhere. However, Jordan agreed to dispatch a group of public security men to carry out the task of observation and the extension of humanitarian services. Their number has not been defined so far and we do not know when they will go. This will be determined by the circumstances as they develop in that region. [end recording]

Role Limited to 'Post-Invasion'

JN1709085594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Sep 94 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff correspondent Ayman al-Safadi]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan will contribute a "small contingent" of police force to the international troops that will monitor what appears to be an imminent U.S.-led invasion of Haiti and provide humanitarian assistance to Haitian people," official sources confirmed Friday [16 September].

But a high-ranking government official told the JORDAN TIMES that the Kingdom will not take part in an invasion of the Caribbean island if the U.S.-led forces launched the attack, saying that the country's involvement would be in a post-invasion phase.

"The Jordanian police force will only provide humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people and undertake monitoring missions," the source said, adding that the contingent would be sent only if there was a need for it after the invasion takes place.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday quoted a senior official it did not name as saying the Kingdom agreed to participate in the U.N. troops at the request of the United Nations and after U.S. President Bill Clinton contacted His Majesty King Husayn over the issue.

"Jordan will be playing that role in support of people's right to sovereignty, freedom, democracy, peace and security," Petra quoted the official as saying.

The official said the country's participation in observer missions in Haiti along with other countries "helps to serve these noble objectives within the framework of international legitimacy." [passage omitted]

IAF Opposes Involvement

JN1909083294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Sep 94 p 12

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies on Sunday [18 September] urged the government to cancel its decision to participate in the U.S.-led international forces that would undertake observers' missions and provide humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people if the Caribbean island is invaded.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Abd al-Salam al-Majali, the IAF parliamentary bloc said the government should refrain from partaking of this "terrorist act" to protect the dignity of the Jordanian people who "refuse to be part of U.S. policy tools."

Jordan announced on Friday that it would be involved in a post-invasion phase in Haiti along with other members of the international community if there was a need for its participation.

But officials emphasised that the "small contingent" of the Jordanian police force which the Kingdom agreed to send to Haiti would not take part in what appears to be an imminent invasion of the Caribbean island.

The government said its decision to participate in the international forces was prompted by its concern with people's right to freedom and democracy.

Minister of Information Jawad al-Anani said Saturday that the number of the Jordanian police force that would leave for Haiti had not been determined yet and that no date for its departure had been agreed on.

Jordan agreed to join the international forces at the request of the United Nations and after contacts between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton, officials have said.

The IAF deputies said: "Our people refuse to be one of the instruments of the arrogant American policy which, at this time of Arab, Muslim and international weakness and indignity, has taken upon itself the task of oppressing the people of the world and subjugating them under its dominance."

"While we reject all forms of dictatorships in the world, we refuse all forms of arrogance and oppression against people," the 16-member IAF parliamentary bloc said.

"If America proclaims itself as the protector of democracy, where is its protection of the democracy that was oppressed in Algeria?" the Islamists said.

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Addressing the situation in Algeria, the IAF expressed appreciation for the "wise decision" of the Algerian government to release Islamist leaders Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhaj, who were jailed after the Algerian election of 1991 were annulled.

The front said in a letter to Algerian President Liamine Zaroual that the decision was an indication that "dialogue and the language of reason are triumphing over the language of war."

It saw in the release of the Islamist leaders a clear move towards resolving the Algerian crisis and expressed hope the Algerian people would be allowed to live under a true Shura system where the "will of the Algerian Muslim people will be respected."

Israel Asked To Curb Kahana Hay Settlement Plan

JN1709185794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Jordan today asked Israel to curb the activities of activists of the Kahana Hay movement, headed by Binyamin Kahana, who have announced a plan to leave for Jordan to set up a settlement there on the pretext that Jordan is an indivisible part of the promised land.

Kahana said yesterday that some 150 of his supporters, all of whom hold dual citizenship, will leave for Jordan to set up a settlement on the eastern bank of the River Jordan in a place believed to have been the site of Naharayim, a city mentioned in the Bible.

A spokesman for the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in Amman that the Israeli Government and public are required to curb the activities of this group, and to seriously address the problems it is creating.

Israel Boycott Supported as 'Bargaining Chip'

JN1609115794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Sep 94 pp 1, 27

[Text] Amman—QUDS PRESS—Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has said Jordan supports using the direct economic boycott imposed by the Arab states on Israel as a bargaining chip against Israel in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. He, however, supported the idea of discussing the future of the indirect boycott within the Arab League's framework.

Dr. al-'Anani told a QUDS PRESS correspondent that there are international pressures to end the Arab boycott of firms having trade relations with Israel on the pretext that this boycott has a more adverse effect on the economies of the Arab states than on Israel's economy. He added: It will be appropriate to discuss this issue.

The Arab League had banned transactions with the Jewish state. In the fifties, it established an office in the Syrian capital, Damascus, to monitor the activities of the foreign firms dealing with Israel.

Al-'Anani believes the direct Arab economic boycott of Israel is a negotiable issue. He emphasized this issue should be utilized to extricate Arab rights from Israel.

The U.S. Administration has asked the Arab states to immediately end the economic boycott of Israel.

King Husayn Receives Israeli Delegation

JN1809202394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Today, His Majesty King Husayn received a delegation of Beersheba citizens, led by [Israeli Arab member of Knesset] Talab al-Sani', at the Royal Hashemite Court. The delegation expressed appreciation for and pride in His Majesty King Husayn's wise stands and relentless efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region. The meeting was attended by Culture Minister Jum'ah Hammad.

Libyan Envoy Arrives With Message for King Husayn

JN1809212594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Jum'ah Mahdi al-Fazzani, personal envoy of Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, arrived in Amman tonight carrying a written message to His Majesty King Husayn from his excellency the Libyan president. In press statements, al-Fazzani said that message concerns efforts to close Arab ranks and bolster joint Arab action. It emphasizes pan-Arab sovereignty and the need to arrive at a unified Arab stand through a joint desire and will to face up to the dangers facing the Arab nation.

King Husayn Briefs Cabinet on Peace, Jerusalem

JN1709181894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited the Prime Ministry today. He was accompanied by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Royal Hashemite Court Chief His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. His majesty met for some time with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. His majesty also chaired part of a cabinet meeting. He reviewed the most important developments in both the domestic and external arenas. His majesty said that the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track are going well and that Jordan will arrive at a just and honorable peace that is accepted and protected by future generations through the coherence of its people, the cooperation of official bodies, and the determination of the Jordanian negotiators.

In his directives to the cabinet, His Majesty King Husayn focused on national unity among the Jordanian people. He instructed the government to highlight this sublime concept through its directives, policies, and decisions as an embodiment of Jordan's noble stands in cultural and human heritage. His majesty pointed out

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that this issue should receive the highest degree of attention at all levels so that the citizens will feel that they are an inseparable part of this homeland.

His Majesty King Husayn said that Jordan is targeted by foreign circles in these current critical circumstances and that we should portray our genuine and firm national position which, with God's help, has been our asset during the most difficult circumstances. His majesty said that Jordan is facing many important issues on which we must concentrate, pay attention, and seek to find solutions and policies to handle these issues.

His majesty called on the government to take immediate measures to ensure peace of mind for every Jordanian citizen and to curb any discriminatory practices that contravene the Jordanian ethical values to which we adhere.

His majesty said that the Royal Commission for Development and Modernization, which was recently established and is headed by his highness the crown prince, aims at completing the draft of the laws and preparations which maintain this country's reputation and purity.

His Majesty King Husayn said that we are approaching a time that will witness the creation of many projects. He added: We want our people to be assured of the sound implementation of these projects so that huge amounts of money will not end up in the hands of parties that do not benefit the country and do not understand its needs. He said: We want our people to be reassured of the soundness of the decisions we will make in the future.

'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of education, submitted a report on the meetings of the Arab League Council. Al-Rawabidah attended the meeting on behalf of Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, who was ill at the time. Al-Rawabidah said that the Jordanian delegation, which chaired the meetings of this Arab League Council session, supported a draft resolution on Jerusalem because it is totally in line with the Jordanian stand. Commenting on this issue, His Majesty King Husayn said that religious sovereignty on Islamic holy places cannot but be our main concern and that the sense of responsibility requires the collective efforts of the entire nation so that we can secure all conditions to defend and protect it.

Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, submitted a report on the meetings held in Islamabad this month by the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization members. Al-Hasan said that the Jordanian delegation reiterated Jordan's firm position on Jerusalem and Islamic awqaf.

His Majesty King Husayn said that the care for Islamic awqaf was assigned to Jordan at the Rabat Arab summit of 1974. We have always performed our duties in this regard in the best possible manner, he added.

His majesty the king went on to say that the issue of Islamic awqaf is too important and serious to be tampered with. Hence, Jordan will continue to perform this role until it obtains full reassurances that all rights will remain protected and safeguarded. This reflects our dutifulness, as well as our respect for the trust assigned us, he said.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed the need to extend every possible assistance to the Palestinian people, regardless of whether or not the relationship with the Palestinian Authority is warm. His majesty urged the Council of Ministers to extend all possible facilities to the Palestinian people, and to help them meet their needs and requirements.

His majesty added: The issue of federation or confederation is out of the question at present. He confirmed Jordan's firm position on this issue. He added that the adoption of such a fateful political decision on either option must be the outcome of the exercise of free will by the two peoples—the Jordanians and Palestinians.

At the end of the session, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali thanked the supreme commander for his sublime directives, and asserted that the government will do its best to cooperate with the Royal Commission for Development and Modernization to enable it to achieve its objectives, and work with the legislative branch of government so that legislation may be enacted into laws.

The Council of Ministers had earlier reviewed the regulations governing the operations of the Higher Procurement Organization, submitted by the Royal Commission for Development and Modernization as requested in a letter sent to the prime minister by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. The council endorsed these regulations, and decided to refer them to the Legal Committee to complete the necessary constitutional measures regarding them as soon as possible so that they may be enforced.

After the end of the cabinet session, Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani spoke to our correspondent for political affairs [Kassab Samawi] on the directives made by His Majesty King Husayn:

[Begin recording] [Samawi] Mr. Minister: With regard to the economic and social requirements of the peace process, I would like to note that the major question on the national scene is the restructuring of the economy and the modernization of legislation. Did his majesty the king express an opinion in this regard?

[Al-'Anani] Of course, His Majesty King Husayn, as usual, has been farsighted. His Majesty King Husayn believes that the peace process is, undoubtedly, forging ahead, and that what is taking place on the Jordanian-Palestinian track [as heard] is satisfactory. He is certain that peace will come on the Jordanian track of negotiations in an honorable and worthy manner. We are

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seeking a just and honorable peace. Nonetheless, his majesty has also expressed views regarding the post-peace era. It is quite obvious that the peace process will result in the implementation of various projects. We are required to make several economic decisions in order to promote and enhance the Jordanian economy, and provide a secure and stable life for all Jordanians. Since he is extremely eager to safeguard Jordan's reputation, and because he wants Jordan to be spared any reproach from any party in this regard, God forbid, his majesty the king made his wise decision to launch the Royal Commission for Development and Modernization. It will lay the foundations and enact the legislation and rules which Jordan needs to herald a new phase, and so that citizens may be reassured about the soundness of the financial decisions that may be made in this context.

Hence, he assigned this task to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the apple of his eye, whose help he always sought in the circumstances of change that require the adoption of new stands, and the accomplishment of special missions dictated by the nature of the phase. This will be done in light of the changes that have swept Jordan.

[Samawi] Sir, there is currently a national debate regarding the convening of the next parliamentary session on time. Is there a chance for this session to be postponed. Was this issue raised today?

[Al-'Anani] Yes, His Majesty King Husayn is eager to maintain the democratic and constitutional life in Jordan in the best possible manner so that Jordan may always remain an example for others in this regard. Nonetheless, no specific date for the convening of the new parliamentary session has been set thus far. I believe that his majesty is considering this issue, and holding consultations with various sides so that he may reach a sound decision in this regard, thanks to his wisdom. At any rate, I believe that we will witness the reconvening of the Parliament in October. [end recording]

Further on Jerusalem Comments

JN1809082294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Sep 94 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn on Saturday [17 September] reaffirmed his resolve to continue to fulfil the Hashemite family's historic role in the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem and expressed hope to see Islamic efforts to guarantee the best conditions to safeguard the holy sites.

The reaffirmation came during a Cabinet meeting the King chaired, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

"Religious sovereignty over the holy places in Jerusalem remains our main concern," the King told the Cabinet. "We hope to see collective efforts on the part of the Islamic Nation to guarantee the best conditions that can safeguard these holy shrines."

The King noted that the task of managing the affairs of the Awqaf in holy shrines in Jerusalem is a historic and religious Jordanian responsibility and that the Arab summit held in Rabat in 1974 had endorsed this role. "We have performed our duties in full throughout the years," the King reaffirmed.

The King stressed that the question of Islamic Waqf was so important that it was dangerous for anyone to tamper with it.

"Therefore, Jordan will go ahead and play its role so as to guarantee that all rights would be preserved and protected because it is our duty and commitment to the mission with which we have been entrusted," the King said.

The King also said that the state of "non-warmth" in relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-led Palestine National Authority (PNA) should not have any impact on relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. He instructed the government to provide all possible help and facilities to the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories to meet their needs.

The King reiterated Jordan's stand that the issue of confederal or federal or any other form of ties between Jordan and the Palestinians was not an issue that should be contemplated at this point in time and circumstances.

"Such an important decision should come from the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples themselves exercising their own free will and free and independent choice," the King said.

In Gaza City, the PNA announced after a meeting on Saturday that it had decided to place all mosques, religious schools and other Islamic institutions in Arab East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the auspices of its newly created Islamic trust ministry.

The Islamic trust minister, Hasan Tahbub, was quoted as saying that the self-rule authority "authorised" him to take an inventory of all the sites.

"We demand that Jordan transfer to us the authorities they have now" over the Muslim institutions, 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, minister of youth, told reporters after the meeting.

"This will create problems with Jordan," he acknowledged.

Jordan's Islamic Trust or Waqf, spends $9 million a year for the upkeep and employees' salaries at about 50 religious sites in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Mr. al-Shua'ybi said the Palestinians planned to pay the salaries of the Waqf employees in the future.

The dispute came after the PLO objected to a recognition of Jordan's historic role in the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem in the Washington Declaration signed on July 25.

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Jordan has repeatedly said that its role in the Holy City was strictly religious and that it firmly supported the Palestinians' quest for political sovereignty over Jerusalem. The Kingdom joined other members of the Arab League last week to reaffirm this stand and support the Palestinians' claim to Jerusalem.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani told reporters in Amman that the Jordanian government would adopt diplomatic and legal steps to ensure the Kingdom's religious role in running Jerusalem's holy Shrines. [passage omitted]

Al-Majali Addresses Seminar on Peace, Cooperation

JN1809211594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that the Jordanian leadership and people are the ones who are closest to their nation's issues and concerns. He said: We will not allow anyone to get one jump ahead of us. We in Jordan are students of the Husayn school of thought, living in harmony among ourselves and with others, confident that Jordan's revolution and impregnability are part of the nation's strength and impregnability. Dr. al-Majali was addressing a seminar organized by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association this evening in the context of its monthly seminars under the slogan "Toward A Comprehensive Economic Revival" in response to His Majesty King Husayn's call to build a new Jordan. The prime minister added that the requirements of peace are no less than those of war in terms of national preparedness and mobilization and coherent and successive policies and decisions within a general orientation toward aspired and specific objectives.

Dr. al-Majali said that making peace does not only mean the restoration of rights and ending the state of belligerency. Rather, it has other aspects, such as economic dealing and cooperation to face up to common challenges. He said that creating a state of peace does not allow war to collect its strength again. He said that Israel knows for certain that Jordan will not sign a peace [treaty] without meeting its specific requirements which mean the restoration of Jordanian territory and fair rights to the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers.

Dr. al-Majali said: We believe that arriving at peace does not necessarily mean dealing with the Israeli economy under the prevailing circumstances. He said Israel should prove its good intentions if it wants to be a regional economic partner in the future.

Finance Minister Assesses Debt Reduction Process

JN1909101394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Sep 94 pp 1, 24

[Report by Amjad Mu'alla]

[Excerpts] Minister of Finance Sami Qammuh has said the United States and some European countries recently agreed to write off $780 million of Jordan's foreign debts over the next two years. Meanwhile, he denied the government has any inclination to increase the tax burden on the national economy and taxpayers.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR yesterday, Qammuh said the U.S. Government agreed to write off $702 million dollars, of which $220 million will be written off before the end of 1994. The rest will be written off during 1995 and 1996.

He added that the British Government also agreed to write off 59.5 million pounds sterling—equivalent to $90 million—of Jordan's debts. The German Government agreed to subject 50 million marks of Jordan's debts to what is called a debt swap with a discount, that is, to turn the debt into Jordanian dinars to be spent on Jordanian projects.

Recently, the French Government also agreed to increase the amount of money that is subject to debt swap from $40 million to $80 million.

Qammuh said the government will follow up the implementation of these agreements to write off the debts and will secure their investment in projects that have an economic return, especially in the fields of tourism and transportation. These countries' agreement to write off Jordan's debts will reduce Jordan's debts from $6.189 billion to around $5.300 billion.

It is noteworthy that Jordan's debts currently amount to $6.189 billion, of which $4.334 billion are debts to industrial countries—the Paris Club. The remaining debts include $371 million to Arab countries and funds; $944 million to international organizations, such as the World Bank and the Islamic Bank for Development, and the rest consists of trade loans and money to charter airplanes.

Qammuh noted that the Ministry of Finance is currently seeking to document these creditor nations' agreements to write off its debts through the signing of bilateral agreements between the Jordanian Government and each of the governments of both the United States and Britain. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the U.S. ambassador's recent statement about the United States' demand to reduce the custom duties on U.S. cars, Qammuh said that the Americans can demand this, but the Jordanian Government always makes its policies in line with national economic, political, and other interests.

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Buwayz Reiterates Stance on Peace Talks

NC1709063694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has returned home from the Arab League meetings in Cairo. He said that during his next tour of the region, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will try to clear up certain points that remain vague regarding the possible withdrawal form the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Buwayz returned to Beirut from Cairo yesterday evening. He said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is closely following up on developments in the Arab-Israeli dialogue. He noted that President Mubarak has entrusted Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa with following up on the situation in south Lebanon during his participation in the UN General Assembly session in New York.

In a statement made at Beirut Airport, Buwayz said that the Arab League has reiterated its commitment to Lebanon on the economic level. He pointed out that the Arab League member countries understand the Lebanese-Syrian stance on the issue of lifting the Arab boycott of Israel, which is a result of the Israeli acts of aggression and occupation of Arab territories.

On what Lebanon and the region can expect from the upcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, Buwayz said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] As to what the region can expect from Christopher's visit, that is strange. We went to the Madrid Conference on the basis of specific resolutions, namely the land-for-peace formula and implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 425. Those who entered the Madrid Conference on this basis were supposed to comply with these principles. The negotiations were supposed to work out programs and timetables for implementation of these principles. I regret to say that after so much time has passed, we are still negotiating the principles to consolidate them, although they were supposed to serve as a starting point.

In any case, the Lebanese stance is clear and unequivocal: There is Security Council Resolution 425, which spells out the mechanism of withdrawal. First, we demand an Israeli commitment to total withdrawal. We mean total and we will not negotiate partial withdrawals. Second, we demand withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders, because the Lebanese borders are nonnegotiable and unquestionable. Third, the withdrawal must be in favor of the Lebanese state to enable it to extend its authority by its own means. By this we mean that the withdrawal should not be in the interest of any party other than the Lebanese state. I believe that when intentions are clear on this issue, it would not be difficult for the Israeli lexicon to provide the terms expressing such intentions. [end recording]

Envoy Delivers al-Qadhdhafi Message to al-Hirawi

NC1609161594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1700 today received Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, assistant secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congresses, who delivered a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message includes specific proposals on how to handle the deteriorating Arab situation and what should be done to reverse this trend. It also deals with the embargo imposed on Libya.

Replying to a question on the Arab boycott of Israel, the Libyan official said that Libya does not recognize the occupying state. He stressed that Palestine is Palestine, denying the visit to Israel by a Libyan delegation a few years ago [as heard].

Hizballah Denies Knowledge of Argentina Detainees

NC1709104994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] The Internal Security Forces and Hizballah have announced that they have no knowledge of Lebanese detainees in Argentina named 'Ali Husayn 'Awdah or 'Ali Salim, accused of bombing the Jewish center in Buenos Aires in July. Citing Internal Security Forces Captain Elie Barad'i, REUTER said that he knows nothing about both names mentioned by the Argentine authorities. He said that all he had were press reports. Hizballah spokesmen also denied knowing anything about the two men.

However, AFP has cited judicial sources in Buenos Aires as saying that one of the two Lebanese detained on Saturday on the border between Argentina and Brazil may be the international terrorist 'Ali Salim, who is being hunted down by Interpol. It noted that the Lebanese bears official papers in the name of 'Ali Husayn 'Awdah. It disclosed that this name might be a code name used by Salim on his travels.

Israeli Posts Attacked; Casualties Reported

NC1809062594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The Lebanese Resistance Battalions—Amal issued the following statement: At 2050 yesterday, the Lebanese Resistance Battlions fighters launched several assaults against the Israeli occupation outposts in al-Suwayda', al-Dabshah, and 'Ali al-Tahir. Fierce clashes ensued between the resistance fighters and the Israeli garrisons, leaving a number of Israeli soldiers dead or wounded. The clashes lasted for 30 minutes after which enemy helicopters began strafing the woods in adjacent areas.

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Responsibility Claimed

NC1809113794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance this morning claimed responsibility for an attack on an Israeli post in Tallat al-Suwayda' a short while before midnight last night. According to the Islamic Resistance statement, the attack left a number of the personnel manning the post dead or injured.

The Israeli occupation forces and agent Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army] shelled the outskirts of Kafr Rumman with 120-mm rounds this morning. Last night, the Israeli forces bombarded Jabal al-Rayhan, the al-Litani river basin, and the outskirts of the al-Suwayda', 'Arab Salim, Kafr Rumman, and the al-Nabatiyah-Habbush triangle. The shelling caused only property damage.

A citizen was seriously injured in Shab'a when the Israeli forces fired at three people who were hunting birds near the Jabal al-Sidanah in Shab'a. The injured person was taken to the Marj 'Uyun hospital. In addition, the Israeli forces fired heavy artillery at Khallat Khazin, setting fires in the area. They also shelled Birkat Jabbur and Abu Rashid. [passage omitted]

Israeli Overflights, Bombardment Reported

NC1709113794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Israeli military aircraft flew over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning. At dawn today, the Israeli occupation forces shelled Jabal al-Rafi' in Iqlim al-Tuffah from their positions in al-Zaffatah. Two shells landed in the outskirts of Yuhmur-al-Shaqif accompanied by bursts of machine-gun fire on the outskirts of the village and the al-Litani River basin originating in the Israeli positions in al-Shaqif castle.

The Israeli forces also fired several rounds at Kafra and Yatar. Wisam Suwaydan was injured when a 120-mm shell fell near his home in Yatar yesterday.

UN Soldier Said Wounded in Shelling

NC1609161894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] From their positions on Jabal Humayyid, Israeli occupation troops bombarded the outskirts of the townships of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Sribbin, and Haddatha with 88-mm and 155-mm mortars. A soldier in the Nepalese UN contingent was wounded in the bombardment of Sribbin-Kafra. The Kafra Mosque suffered a direct hit and a number of homes were damaged.

The outskirts of Majdal Zun and surrounding valleys were raked by machine-gun fire from Israeli helicopters. No casualties have been reported.

A resistance group attacked an occupation position in Rshaf with rockets and machine guns. The position's fortifications were destroyed and casualties were reported among its guards.

Meanwhile, the Israeli seige of the village of Arnun continues for the ninth week in a row. The villagers complain of a shortage of water, food, and medicine.

Artillery Hits Southern Villages

NC1909051994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] According to reports form south Lebanon, severe tension prevails along the contact lines in the south and western al-Biqa' in the wake of Israeli acts of aggression during the night. The Israeli forces fired flares and their artillery bombarded the village of Kafr Rumman, the Kafr Jawz area, the outskirts of Habbush, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, Jabal al-Rafi', the periphery of the Lebanese Army deserted barracks in al-Nabatiyah, and the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa. The shelling was accompanied by intensive sniper fire at Arab Salim originating from the al-Suwayda' post.

Israeli Aircraft Conduct Mock Raids

NC1909091594 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over the central sector at 1100 today. The Israeli aircraft also reconnoitered the sky over al-Nabatiyah and adjacent areas flying at low altitude.

Our correspondent also reports that an Israeli bombardment of Jabal al-Rafi', Jabal al-Rayhan, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, and Wadi Habbush has been in progress since 1100.

Elsewhere, the Israeli forces this morning reopened the Zummarayya Crossing after a three-day closure.

Amal Movement Claims Attack on Israeli Car

NC1909105494 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] The Amal Movement has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive charge under an Israeli intelligence car on the Kafr Falus-'Ayn al-Mir Road at 1100 today, killing or wounding its occupants. The Israelis retaliated by shelling the scene of the operation.

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Al-Shar' Interviewed by BBC

LD1709183694 London BBC World Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by correspondent Faysal al-Gassim in London on 6 September—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Al-Shar'] ...from what we can see and follow, although the statements made by senior Israeli officials lead to some optimism, they are contradictory and do not meet what is required of Israel, namely, a clear announcement on a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights. However, optimism may come first from Syria's seriousness in dealing with the peace process. The U.S. sponsor is fully aware of this Syrian seriousness and has expressed it in various statements.

The second thing is that there is an increasing realization inside Israel that peace with Syria can only be achieved with a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

[Al-Gassim] What do you think about the developments in the other tracks, namely the Palestinian-Israeli track and the Jordanian-Israeli track?

[Al-Shar'] In fact, we have our own viewpoint in Syria and we expressed it before the Madrid Conference and afterward, and after such steps were made. We have always said that in order for peace in the region to exist and continue, and for the region to see real security and stability in the end, peace had to be comprehensive. The fragmentation of peace could appear to some as a step toward removing a given obstacle. However, the fear is that such small steps could hamper efforts to reach the final objective, namely a comprehensive peace. These steps could also be counterproductive, since the Palestinian people, for example, feel that what their leadership has done might have forsaken many of the rights of the Palestinian people. This creates a negative reaction in the Palestinian arena and this in turn will have an effect on the other tracks.

[Al-Gassim] Some say that Syria is refusing to sign a declaration of principles, similar to the one signed by the Palestinians or the Jordanians, why is that?

[Al-Shar'] In fact, we have not refused. In the first year of the bilateral peace talks in Washington, we put forward a Syrian draft for a declaration of principles. However, two years went by and nothing was achieved because of Israel's intransigence.

[Al-Gassim] Fine. President Hafiz al-Asad suggested a few days ago the formation of a joint Syrian-Lebanese delegation to negotiate with Israel, with the Lebanese heading this delegation. Could you clarify the nature of this proposal?

[Al-Shar'] What I would like to say can be summed up as follows: We in Syria cannot nor do we accept to embark on a unilateral solution, which would mean abandoning Lebanon. Nor can Lebanon embark on an unilateral solution and ignore Syria's position, particularly as the relationship between Syria and Lebanon is close, strong, and firm, based on a common history and on huge sacrifices made in order to enable Lebanon to remain united, sovereign, and independent. From what we can see and follow, although the statements made by senior Israeli officials lead to some optimism, they are contradictory and do not meet what is required of Israel, namely, a clear announcement on a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights. However, optimism may come first from Syria's seriousness in dealing with the peace process. The U.S. sponsor is fully aware of this Syrian seriousness and has expressed it in various statements. [repeated passage from first paragraph as heard]

The second thing is that there is an increasing realization inside Israel that peace with Syria can only be achieved with a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights. [repeated passage from first paragraph as heard]

[Al-Gassim] Fine. Egyptian Foreign minister 'Amr Musa said a few days ago that it could be useful to hold secret meetings, so to speak, between Syria and Israel to clear the air and possibly sign deals away from the spotlights and commotion. What do you think about this?

[Al-Shar'] We believe that all deals that are made away from the spotlights and that take place in some kind of secrecy cause unjustified suspicions. Consequently, they result in negative reactions among the people. We do not need them. Our position is clear, and the basis on which the peace process was built is clear and open and is stipulated in the Security Council resolutions that were adopted as the basis for the Madrid Conference. The two sides have to discuss the implementation of these principles and bases in order to reach a peace agreement. Why would we then need secret contacts or roles to be played by the two sides away from people's attention?

[Al-Gassim] As we know, peace between Israel and Egypt remains a cold peace, what do you expect the nature of peace between Syria and Israel will be, should this peace be achieved?

[Al-Shar'] Cold peace is the result of a number of reasons that were in fact imposed by Israel on the Arab side. Unilateral solutions lead to a cold peace and secret contacts also lead to a cold peace because these matters create suspicions in the Arab public opinion. Consequently, public opinion will feel that it is not ready to respond to the kind of peace that has been achieved. Furthermore, so long as there is an occupied Arab territory, in the Golan Heights and in south Lebanon, the man in the Egyptian street will not feel that the peace that has been achieved is a real peace. As a result he will respond in a cold way to such a peace.

Therefore, we say that a comprehensive peace is the one that leads to a real peace based on a complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories in order to enable the Arab citizen, be he in Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon,

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or even the Gulf and the Maghreb, to feel that such a peace truly deserves to be called peace.

Libyan Official, al-Qadhdhafi Message Received

JN1709112094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, assistant secretary of the General People's Congress in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The meeting was attended by Humayyid Jallud, secretary of the Libyan Relations Office in Damascus.

Al-Shar' Returns From Arab League Ministers' Session

JN1609161594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Cairo this evening, having led Syria's delegation to the 102d session of the Arab League Council, which was held at the foreign ministers level. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH: U.S. Envoy May Carry 'Fresh Ideas'

JN1809065894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Sep 94

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH discusses the fuss created by Israeli media and the recriminations between Israeli officials and political blocs about the occupied Golan Heights. The paper notes that this agitation typically greets any new American moves to break the logjam in the Middle East peace process. AL-BA'TH adds: If predictions should materialize, Dennis Ross—America's overall Middle East coordinator, who will come to the region to lay the groundwork for Warren Christopher's next tour—may carry some fresh ideas. This is because the U.S. Administration, now more than ever, wants to activate its role. While Washington pursues success, Israel is showing ever greater inflexibility regarding a pullout from the Golan and south Lebanon. Although the Rabin goverment attempts to appear flexible, its position will remain unchanged as long as it has not made a clear commitment to withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights and as long it maintains open-ended aggression on south Lebanon and al-Biqa'.

The bickering among Israel's political leaders is just that; it is nothing beyond sophistry that amounts to little more than an attempt to eschew a commitment to make peace and extricate Israel from the bind in which the Rabin government has found itself following President Hafiz al-Asad's speech to the People's Assembly. The speech was an invitation to forge a true and durable peace predicated on UN resolutions and the American initiative that Syria embraced as a strategic option. It is now up to Israel to follow Syria's lead, concludes AL-BA'TH.

Press Views Settlements, U.S. Envoy's Tour

JN1909085794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN discusses the Middle East tour Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, will begin tomorrow. This tour aims to push forward the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and follow up on U.S. efforts designed to realize a just and comprehensive peace and achieve the objectives of the peace process, unleashed in Madrid, based on the pertinent international resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

TISHRIN says that while following up the positive U.S. efforts regarding the peace process and stressing our great eagerness to promote and activate the peace process, Syria will continue to be honest in its endeavors and serious about its full and absolute commitment to the bases of this process.

The paper notes that the party that refuses to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon is the only party that does not want peace, nor does it wish to take part in achieving peace. This was revealed following the statements by some Israeli officials who still place obstacles and fabricate pretexts, in the belief that this policy will allow them to evade the requisites of full withdrawal.

TISHRIN emphasizes that full Israeli withdrawal is the basic element of peace. Syria will not accept less than the full regaining of the Golan, removal of all the settlements, evacuation of the settlers from Syrian territory, and the Israeli forces' return to the 4 June 1967 lines. This also applies to southern Lebanon, where the implementation of Resolution 425 provides for full and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The paper stresses that full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon is the real and natural approach to achieve peace. It is impossible to attain a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict under full, or even partial, occupation of Arab territories, led by the Golan and southern Lebanon. At a time when everyone is stressing the need to impose the will of international legitimacy, it is not permissible to circumvent the national and pan-Arab rights because ensuring, protecting, and adhering to these rights are among the principles of a just and comprehensive solution.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: While emphasizing that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks go hand in hand, Syria will not spare any effort or capability to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Meanwhile, Syria does not have the least doubt that it is strong by virtue of its rights, that it is honest in its positions, and that it is serious about establishing an honorable and

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successful peace based on rights, justice, comprehensiveness, and the resolutions of international legitimacy. Moreover, such peace should first and foremost be based on full Israeli withdrawal, removal of the settlements, and evacuation of the settlers from the Golan.

In the "Opinion" column, the newspaper TISHRIN discusses the fact that Jewish settlers in the Golan and the occupied West Bank continue to fabricate problems and disturbances in order to impress the Israeli Government and obstruct the Middle East peace process. This process requires removing these settlements, as well as returning the Golan to Syria, the West Bank to the Palestinians, and southern Lebanon to the Lebanese people as a prelude to a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN adds: The Rabin government knows the price for peace with Syria and Lebanon is withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. It knows Syria will not sell out its territory, nor will it establish peace if its occupied territory is not regained. Will the Rabin government confirm that its attitudes and intentions are sincere about achieving a just and comprehensive peace by making a frank announcement that it intends to withdraw, dismantle the settlements, and evacuate the settlers?

Commenting on the same issue, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: Prior to [Ross's Middle East] tour, Washington emphasized its commitment to promoting the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has announced. As was obvious during Christopher's successive tours this summer, this emphasis crystallizes the U.S. awareness that rendering the entire peace process a success and achieving its set objectives, which were announced in the celebrated peace initiative more than three years ago, can only be achieved by realizing a breakthrough on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in accordance with the bases set for this process. These bases emanate from the Madrid formula based on both the pertinent UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-BA'TH adds: Perhaps, the United States realizes, more than others, the facts of the positions, which are either positively or negatively linked to the peace process. At a time when Syria, as part of its national and supreme Arab interest, dealt with this process in a very positive way and cared for providing objective conditions to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that will give everyone their ndue rights—particularly liberating the occupied territories, regaining the usurped rights, and removing all traces of the Israeli aggression—Israel deliberately undermined and disturbed this process as part of a plan designed to impose occupation as an accomplished fact on the Arabs and compel them to accept the Israeli terms under the slogan of peace in return for peace.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: All regional cards are now exposed and known, and there are no more secrets in the positions of the various parties. This requires that, in light of Washington's commitment to rendering the peace process a success, the new U.S. move should focus on working out an appropriate formula to remove the Middle East peace process from its current impasse and to correctly and accurately place this process on the path of a just and comprehensive solution.

Return of Golan Said 'Right,' Not Concession

NC1809130494 Paris AFP in English 1224 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Damascus, Sept 18 (AFP)—An Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights is a Syrian right and not a concession, the government daily TISHRIN said Sunday [18 September].

The newspaper was reacting to comments by Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in an interview published Saturday, when he said his country was "ready to make concessions" to Damascus in return for security guarantees.

Peres said Israel's proposal to withdraw from the Golan Heights was a "tangible thing" and should be met by an equally concrete proposal from Syria.

TISHRIN said his reference to "Syrian concessions" hinted that Syria "must concede part of its territory."

It added: "There is no question of that, because the Golan has always been Syrian territory and the return of the Golan is the right of every Syrian citizen."

The paper also reacted to an appeal by Peres for Damascus to "modify" its stance in peace negotiations, which have been stalled since the February 25 Hebron massacre.

TISHRIN said Syria was offering peace with Israel in return for a withdrawal from the strategic Golan, captured in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"Since 1948 Israeli leaders have never ceased to call on Arabs to reach peace and to claim that they had no territorial ambitions," it said.

"Once the Arabs responded to the U.S. initiative, Israeli leaders dodged the conditions of peace concerning the return of land, by raising security issues. As if a fair and true peace was not the best guarantee of security."

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Afghanistan

Fighting Between Various Factions Continues

'Fierce' Fighting Near Kabul

LD1609175394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Fierce fighting has been going on in the west of Kabul for the past two days between the forces of Harekat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] and the men of Abdol Ali Mazari.

Eye witnesses said to the Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] that heavy weapons and artillery were being used in these clashes. [words indistinct] A source of Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity] reported to BIA that the fighting started when the men attached to the Abdol Ali Mazari faction, attacked positions of the Harekat-e Eslami at midnight 14 September; the Mazari men started to plunder property from the houses of local people.

The source added that following the attack by the Mazari men, the Golboddin-Dostam militias have been firing heavy weapons on the positions and headquarters of the Harekat-e Eslami.

The source also added that a large number of the realistic and Mojahedin armed men of the Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party], have left the rank of Abdol Ali Mazari and came over to the side of the Harekat-e Eslami. They are now fighting on the side of the Harekat's Mojahedin against the Mazari men.

An eye-witness said to the BIA that the forces of Harekat-e Eslami have captured some centers and trenches of the Mazari faction. The fighting fiercely continuing.

A high ranking source of the country's security authority reported to BIA that the men of Mazari faction together with the Dostum-Golboddin militias have been attacking the positions of the Islamic army's forces in Aliabad, Karta-e Sakhi and the TV mountain [west of Kabul; close to city center] during the past two days. Mazari's men and militias have been also firing rockets on the residential areas of the city. Despite these attacks, the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has not yet taken any action, in order to prevent the spread of fighting and in view of request made by the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, the Mazari faction, regrettably, in collaboration with the Dostam-Golboddin militias, who are the enemies of peace and tranquillity of our people, have not yet stopped their attacks. The responsibility for the consequences of these attacks will rest on warmongers.

Rebel Positions Seized in Faryab

LD1609211894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Following a mopping-up operation by the Islamic army forces, several positions of the Golboddin-Dostam militia around Faryab Province were seized last night.

Reports reaching the Bakhtar Information Agency say that during these successful operations, carried out under the command of Abdol Karim Asad and [name indistinct], in addition to the capture of several important and strategic positions of the notorious militia, the village of [name indistinct], Gorjiwan District, Faryab Province, was completely cleared of criminal militias.

During the operation 10 militiamen were killed and another six were captured by the Mojahedin and Islamic army forces. Twenty-five assorted weapons and a large amount of ammunition were seized.

During the past two weeks the Mojahedin and Islamic army forces have captured dozens of strong positions of the enemies of Islam, cleared large areas and villages of Faryab of criminal militias, and seized their weapon and ammunition.

The reports say that the Islamic army forces and Mojahedin continue their advances with high morale.

Harekat-e Eslami Head on Situation

LD1609214994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Interview with Planning Minister Seyyed Mohamad 'Ali Javid, chairman of the Central Council of the Harekat-e Eslami of Afghanistan, by unidentified correspondent on 16 September; place not give—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent, in Dari] Will you give us information about the recent clashes in the southwestern area of Kabul?

[Javid] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. These clashes were not only in the southwestern areas of Kabul but in all of the area southwest to west of Kabul. As you know, the reason for these clashes was abductions followed by an attack by the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Golboddin on the forces of Harekat-e Eslami-Afghanistan [Islamic Movement of Afghanistan]. In these attacks, regrettably, the Mazari faction of the Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] were closely and directly cooperating with the Golboddin and forces of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]. However, as a result of our brethren's vigilance, the attacks were pushed back. Our brethren seized the Darolaman Palace, Darolaman road, areas around Darolaman up to Doghabad, Dehdana, Qala-e Muslim, and so forth. [passage indistinct]

As a matter of fact, Mr. Mazari was not fighting against the Russians but was involved in fratricidal clashes and internal fighting. He was very upset after his second defeat. He then formulated another plan after concluding that he could not succeed by fighting directly. He planned a coup and started to seize houses and capture the officials of the Harekat-e Eslami in the area. Mazari worked for two weeks on the coup plan. People from the Hezb-e Eslami and Mazari's faction of Hezb-e Wahdat

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and Movement of the North, took part in designing this plan and attempted to implement this coup [words indistinct].

The Mazari faction suddenly launched its last attack at three hours after midnight. They suffered heavy losses. They have seized a number of houses, but no official of ours is in their hands [words indistinct]. Houses are being looted [words indistinct]. Nevertheless, they have embarked on this action but, thanks to God, they have not succeeded in capturing any major military headquarters. Our brothers in their trenches are firmly resisting. Areas from Qala-e Hayder Khan to Darolaman Palace and their surroundings—hills of [word indistinct] and peaks of [word indistinct are all in our brethren's hands. A number of narrow streets that have been taken have no military significance.

[Words indistinct] we have always denounced fighting; we did not want to start fighting with anyone; the fighting has been imposed on us. We did not, however, expect Mazari to behave so cowardly, in collaboration with the Hezb-e Eslami, against his brethren of his own religion. This is the case now, but we are going to succeed; there will be no defeat. I apologize to our people. The people received losses and damages. Naturally, when the fighting breaks up, people suffer and come under pressure.

By doing this, I think, Mazari has dug his own grave in front of our people. Mazari no longer physically exists. [Words indistinct] cease-fire is now in place by the efforts of a number of people. We will wait and see where this cease-fire will take us. We were not in favor of fighting and bloodshed. However, this action of Mazari was a dangerous one. I do not know whether this man has really gone mad, or the adviser forced him to do this [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Javid] I am carefully following the events. Some foreign countries are playing a role. In addition to financing and other things, they masterminded the plan of fighting. I am aware and following the developments. I am aware of the sessions held and attended by their so-called officials; I know the venue and time of these sessions and what they talked about. I am following all. I regret very much that, instead of coming forward and working for the reconstruction of our country or working for peace and reconciliation, they intensify the situation in this way between our Jehadi and Muslim forces. I regret very much seeing a number of people so weak, subservient, and vulnerable who accepts their [not further identified] word [words indistinct]. I do not think it advisable to explain more about these people, but if the case becomes serious then (?I will speak more clearly).

Kabul Military Operation Continues

LD1709180594 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Mopping-up operations by the High Coordination Council forces continued yesterday in the west and southwest areas of Kabul.

The Radio Message of Freedom correspondent, quoting a responsible source in the Coordination Council's high command, reports that these operations were conducted around Dehdana hill [west of Kabul] and in other places. The report adds that the High Coordination Council forces seized a number of small and large military posts of the seditious Anwari group along with a number of heavy and light weapons.

During this mopping-up operation, a number of armed men attached to the seditious Anwari mercenary group [words indistinct] and a number were captured alive.

The report adds that aircraft of the mercenary coalition bombed [words indistinct] and residential regions yesterday afternoon. A number of houses in southwestern Kabul were damaged, and a number of innocent compatriots were martyred. [passage omitted]

Harekat-e Eslami Statement

LD1709163994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Announcement by the head of military office of the Harekat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] of Afghanistan: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] On the basis of this verse the earnest sons of the path of righteousness proved their ability in eliminating the nests of evil, sedition, and atheism; and would never tolerate the domination of evil forces, oppressors, and tyrants. [passage omitted]

Your Mojahed sons, once again, with courage in the battlefield of the western fronts [western Kabul], have given an unforgettable and crushing lesson to the aggressors and alien plunderers, and have created an epic. They inflicted crushing blows on the dirty body of the remnant militias of Keshtmand, Nabizada, Mazari, and Golbod-din-Dostam; and have captured their headquarters, one after another.

During this successful operation carried out by regiment three, the Darolaman Palace and its surroundings, [words indistinct], Kotal-e Jalriz, Post 296, Dasht-e Besthazai, and Onchibaghbanan were completely cleared of the alien's servants and the following items were seized by the devout Mojahedin: 1. [numbering as heard] Thirty giant tanks [as heard]; two BM-40; four 76mm desert artillery; one (?30mm) artillery; four PK; two Kalashnikovs, together with a large amount of ammunition for light and heavy weapons.

At the end I assure you—the Muslim nation—that the victorious operation of our forces will continue until the complete elimination of the Mazari band. Our nation will be relieved from the evil of this source of sedition.

Iran Tries To Mediate

LD1709110194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Heavy fighting continues in the west and southwest of Kabul between the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami

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[Islamic Unity Party], whose secretary general is Mazari, and Hezb-e Harekat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement Party], which supports President Rabbani. Our colleague reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] The two sides are attacking each others' positions using light and heavy weapons, which have killed and wounded hundreds of people. Sources from a hospital in west Kabul say that around 500 wounded have been transferred to that hospital within the past 3 days, and over 50 of them have died due to severe injuries.

Artillery units and rocket launchers belonging to Afghan Prime minister Golboddin Hekmatyar are supporting the warring sides by bringing the Harekat-e Eslami positions in the west of Kabul under artillery and rocket fire. Also yesterday and today, government aircraft have bombed areas under the control of the Wahdat-e Eslami forces several times.

Meanwhile, Mr. Haddadi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Kabul, took part in an interview with Iranian radio's Central News Unit, and said that he has met and held talks with Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] and Hezb-e Harekat-e Eslami officials, as well as the Afghan president and other high-ranking Afghan officials, in order to bring an immediate end to the clashes. He added that despite all efforts, the ceasefire established between the warring sides at 2200 Thursday night, lasted only until midday Friday. But the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy is determined to continue its efforts to establish a ceasefire between Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Harekat-e Eslami. Hundreds of thousands live in west Kabul and the battles of the past three days have imprisoned the inhabitants in their homes.

Iranian Cease-Fire Plan Fails

LD1709175994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Once again the Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning the fighting in Kabul, has called for a speedy end to the present unrest in Afghanistan.

Announcing this in an interview with reporters from the Central News Bureau and IRNA, our ambassador to Kabul added: Following efforts by Iranian diplomats for negotiations between the leaders of rival groups, a cease-fire was established and observed from 2200 Thursday [15 September] night till 1200 Friday, but unfortunately after the violation of cease-fire as of noon yesterday heavy fighting has been continuous.

Mr. Gholam Reza Haddadi stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously called for an end to fighting in Afghanistan and the establishment of peace and tranquillity and will not spare any effort toward this end.

Iran Pushes for Cease-Fire

LD1809104994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Afghan rival groups in Afghanistan's capital are still fighting. We continue the news bulletin with a report on that by our colleague:

[Unidentified correspondent] Heavy fighting is going on between the forces of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] and Harekat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement] in the west and south-west of the Afghan capital. Harekat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] sources say that during battles in the west Kabul yesterday they have succeeded in recapturing several of their seized bases, including the Darolaman palace. Sources close to the Secretary General of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, Mr. Mazari, have rejected that claim and said: Harekat-e Eslami has lost control of a section of (Eskad), a strategic hill where long-range rockets are deployed.

Those claims have not yet been corroborated by independent sources. That is when witnesses report on the death and wounding of hundreds of more people during yesterday's battles in the west and south-west Kabul. Hospital sources in the Afghan capital say that only up to yesterday morning 687 wounded had been transferred to hospitals in Kabul. They add: The coming of the forces which follow the president and the forces which follow the Afghan prime minister to support each of the warring sides has resulted in the number of war victims to increase in west Kabul. Hundreds of west Kabul inhabitants have been unable to leave their homes for the fifth day running.

In that connection, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Afghanistan, Mr. Haddadi, expressing concern over the fate of hundreds of thousands of inhabitants of west Kabul, called on the warring sides to end the war and fratricide for the sake of Islamic and humane interests. Speaking to a group of Iranian correspondents in west Kabul, he referred to the closing of all the food stores and bakeries in west Kabul and the danger of the resulting hunger for hundreds of thousands of the innocent people in that area and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in Kabul will continue its efforts to persuade the warring sides in west Kabul to establish a cease-fire. Talks with the two warring sides for achieve that objective are going on.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran,in Kabul

Clashes Leave 150 Dead, 700 Wounded

BK1809115094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 18 Sep 94

[By Terence White]

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[Text] KABUL, Sept 18 (AFP)—Heavy fighting continued Sunday between rival Shiite factions in south and west Kabul Sunday, leaving 150 people dead and at least 700 civilians injured, hospital sources said.

"Based on the daily average of 145 wounded, we can expect some 720 casualties in Karte Se hospital by the end of today," a foreign medical aid worker said.

It is impossible to ascertain the exact number of those killed in the fighting, as no official records are kept beyond a count of the few bodies which are delivered to the hospital, but hospital sources Sunday conservatively estimate that at least 150 were dead.

Forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani have joined the Shiite Harekat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] faction in the fight against their Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] rivals with heavy weapons and jets, but the pro-Rabbani infantry have yet to strike a major blow against Wahdat.

"This fight is between Harekat and Wahdat. We have no orders for an advance," said a pro-Rabbani frontline commander based at the state granary in west Kabul called Silo.

Wahdat fighters dug-in at the nearby strategic Kote Sangi crossroads had Silo under continuous rocket bombardment early Sunday, while massed pro-Rabbani troops were seen loading heavy weapons in anticipation of a coming battle.

From the upper floors of Silo, heavy shelling of both Wahdat and Harekat forces in the west Kabul district of Dashte Barchi—where Harekat claim to have captured at least four main Wahdat positions—could clearly be seen.

However a spokesman for Harekat's military chief Sayed Hussain Anwari admitted that two days ago his forces had pulled out from the stratgeic Darulaman Palace in south Kabul under pressure from Wahdat.

He said that Harekat's enemies, the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Rabbani's rival Golboddin Hekmatyar and ex-communist Uzbek militia of general Abdol Rashid Dostam, had also withdrawn.

"The palace is a no-man's land. The area is under heavy weapons bombardment," the spokesman said.

Anwari's spokesman blamed Wahdat for initially attacking Harekat last Wednesday, saying: "We are not in favour of fighting among mojahedin groups but if necessary we must defend ourselves".

Although there was no public traffic from the city centre to south Kabul via Dehmazang Square Sunday, the bombardment in this area by both opposing forces was less fierce than on Saturday.

Meanwhile there was heavy fighting on the eastern Kabul frontlines where Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction came under attack from a pro-Rabbani jet.

"There was a mutual heavy bombardment without any infantry attack by either side," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Hekmatyar and Dostam have been coordinating efforts since January 1 to militarily topple Rabbani's government. The factional fighting since rival mojahedin factions entered Kabul after the fall of communist regime in April 1992 has claimed more than 12,000 people dead.

Hekmatyar Receives Chechen Special Envoy

LD1709120694 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Brother Golboddin Hekmatyar, the glorious leader of the Islamic revolution and the mojahed leader of the Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], in his office in Charasiab met a delegation from the Chechen independent republic yesterday.

Our reporter says that Mr. Ruslan (Ulueng), deputy foreign minister of the Chechen republic, and Mr. (Fathi Muhammad), special envoy of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, attended the meeting.

During this meeting, the Chechen delegation informed Hekmatyar on the current political and military situation in the Chechen-Ashkaristan republic and delivered a message from President Dudayev to him.

It is worth mentioning that the Chechen republic is situated to the north of Georgia and occupies an area of 17,300 square km. It has a population of [number indistinct]. The Chechen republic was occupied in 1895 by Tsarist Russian forces until it gained its independence from the former USSR in the beginning of November 1991. All inhabitants of this republic are the followers of the sacred religion of Islam and its capital is the city of Groznyy. The official name of this republic is Chechen-Ashkaristan. Recently the independence and freedom of this republic has once again been threatened by the [word indistinct] Russians.

India

Editorials Respond to New Government Drug Policy

'Half-Fashioned' Drug Policy Viewed

BK1909121194 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Sep 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Half-fashioned"]

[Text] The pharmaceutical industry will not be uniformly pleased with the new drug policy which has finally seen the light of day. But there is no question that most of its expectations have been met in the delicensing of all but a few bulk drugs and formulations and the reduction and simplification of price controls. How well

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the policy works and what degree of regression there will be back to controls depends on performance. Certainly the new policy holds that Damocles' sword over the industry and rightly so given the inherent tendencies towards monopolistic practices, sudden and unjustified price rises and inexplicable shortages, that Indian consumers have borne with resilience.

It is evident that even after two years of cogitation, policymakers have had difficulties striking the right balance between the market and government intervention. The easy part was deciding what drugs or formulations to reserve for the public sector. Understanding the market proved more troublesome. A case in point is the arbitrary definition of 'sufficient market competition' as consisting of at least five bulk drug producers and 10 formulators. Bureaucrats love this sort of categorisation, but the market is certain to find ways around it. Nowhere is the half- fashioned nature of the policy more obvious than in the crucial area of research and development. The complicated matter of fiscal incentives for R&D has been left undecided. It also remains to be seen exactly what objectives are intended to be served by the proposed one per cent cess [surcharge] on production of drugs and pharmaceuticals to promote domestic R&D. On the whole, with clearance for 51 per cent foreign equity, approval of foreign technology agreements and the abolition of controls for units with turnover up to Rs [rupees] 4-core, the policy favours the large against the medium and small. Whether this in turn will result in maintaining high quality at low price, as the heavyweights argue, depends on how two new watchdogs carry out their jobs. If the Government is serious about an effective regulating authority, it is essential that the proposed National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and National Drug Authority are properly funded and insulated from bureaucratic and political interference.

Policy Said To Show 'Confusion'

BK1909120094 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 17 Sep 94 p 8

[Editorial: "An Incomplete Policy"]

[Text] The new drug policy announced on Thursday [15 September] reveals the confusion that continues to prevail in the Government about how it should address a host of issues relating to this crucial industry. Unlike almost all other products, pharmaceuticals are treated differently by officialdom the world over because producing medicines is not like any other manufacturing activity. Moreover, the question of prices is as important as that of easy availability of drugs. Usually the pharmaceutical industry in most parts of the world has to work under stringent price, distribution and quality controls. Take, for instance, price controls. The Government has claimed that, in terms of turnover, roughly half the drugs sold in the country would henceforth be outside the ambit of price control against a figure of around 30 per cent at present. Thus it is likely that prices of drugs which go out of the purview of price control will increase. The likelihood of a rise in prices increases particularly till such time the proposed delicensing measure has a positive impact on the availability of drugs in the market. It is logical, therefore, to conclude that the move on price decontrol will defeat one of the objectives of the policy, which is to make drugs available to consumers at "reasonable" prices.

The confusion in the Government thinking becomes evident when it is stated that should there be an "unreasonable" increase in prices, the authorities would step in to take appropriate measures which could include reimposition of price control. It has also been stated that the proposed National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority would be responsible for determining cases of overpricing and, presumably, this so-called autonomous body would also be responsible for prescribing the "appropriate action" that would have to be taken against the offenders. But could the policy not have spelt out clearly what would constitute an unreasonable price hike? That would perhaps be asking for too much. But like the detailed guidelines on the new telecommunications policy which are awaited, the drug policy is still somewhat nebulous because the fine print (for instance, the precise list of drugs which would be taken out of price control) will not be ready till the Drug Price Control Order is amended two to three months later. Till then, various interest groups would step up their lobbying efforts.

However, it is not as if the policy has no redeeming features. The proposed process to fund research, the greater incentives given to step up production, the formation of a broad-based National Drug Authority to examine issues relating to quality and rational use of drugs are all to be welcomed. But the policy is also incomplete since most of the above-mentioned steps would only be implemented over a period of time, and much would depend on the Government's will to make these bodies truly effective. Till then India will remain a country with a not-so-unhealthy pharmaceutical industry producing drugs which are often inappropriate to the health requirements of the bulk of the populace.

Policy Welcomed; Results Awaited

BK1909113394 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 17 Sep 94 p 13

[Editorial: "A Policy for Drugs"]

[Text] The early reactions to the new drug policy announced on Thursday [15 September] were mixed and somewhat tentative, suggesting that it would take some time before the industry is able to assess its full impact. It is too early to speculate whether delicensing of the pharmaceutical industry would automatically spur foreign companies to see India as an attractive market. The policy has only cleared the first obstacle for foreign drug manufacturers whose bigger concern has been the protection of intellectual property rights for their products. Foreign companies with automatic approval for equity

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participation of 51 per cent will be treated at par with their Indian counterparts. But the key question is whether the foreign entities will find wider elbow room in the government's decision to retain price control over roughly 50 per cent of the drugs against 70 per cent as now. In the absence of specifics, it is also difficult to evaluate the worth of the decision to reduce the number of bulk drugs under price control from the present 142 to 73. If the avowed aim is to make it worthwhile for foreign drug manufacturers to invest and market in India, as is being widely suggested on the plea of attracting high technology, it would be some time before anything can be said with certainty. The new policy will retain the existing norm of a rate of return of 14 per cent on net worth of drugs under price control. However, in case of the manufacture of drugs from basic stages, a 4 per cent extra return over the present level will be permitted as incentive.

Whether the new drug policy is populist, as some industry spokesmen have said, or is a mystery wrapped in an enigma, should be a subject on which only the rash will venture an opinion. A ministry spokesman has announced that new prices will be fixed within four months of undertaking a review of bulk drugs and within two months for formulations. What can be safely assumed at this stage is that drug prices will see a spurt, especially in areas where it matters to the citizen more. As a welcome submission to market principles, the new policy stipulates that drugs in which there is sufficient competition—at least five bulk drug producers and at least 10 formulators with more than 40 per cent market share—will be kept outside price control. It will be a welcome development if the culture of cartels or oligopoly disappears with the new policy. Drugs at affordable prices have been an unfulfilled promise in India. If these are to be produced through competition between foreign and indigenous manufacturers, the cost will incorporate the value of the offshore producers' R&D and intellectual property rights, and the Indians' investment aimed at matching the foreigners' excellence. It will be a marketing miracle if drugs become cheaper in the years ahead.

Pakistan's Reasons for Nuclear Plans Viewed

BK1709144594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Sep 94 p 8

[Article by J.N. Dixit: "Divisive Cogitation"]

[Text] WHY do people labour truisms, and that too unnecessarily? In his article "India's utter disbelief" (IE [Indian Express], September 5), Mr Kuldip Nayar, admonished us by writing: "New Delhi must face the fact that Islamabad has the bomb."

Let me affirm that both the Government and the public in India are quite clear in their perception that Pakistan has the bomb. Our Government's public and parliamentary pronouncements, on Pakistan's nuclear policies, predating Mr Nayar's interview with Dr A. Q. Khan on January 28, 1987, clearly indicate that we have been carefully and continuously monitoring Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme. Long before Dr Khan, provoked by Mr Nayar, informed the world that Pakistan has the bomb, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had clearly indicated Pak intentions of acquiring the bomb combined with a willingness to accept the collective nutritional decline of the Pakistani nation, if necessary by eating grass.

So what is new? Nothing in terms of objective realities. Instead of cogitating on the obvious, the need is to assess the motivations of Pakistan possessing nuclear weapons and the implications of this development for India. Do we have the capacity to neutralise the negative impact on our security environment resulting from Pakistan's nuclear threats?

Mr Nawaz Sharif's statement of August 23 confirming Pakistan's nuclear weapons status is part of a long and on-going exercise being undertaken by the Pakistani establishment, spread over the last two decades, to come out of the closet about its nuclear intentions. Z. A. Bhutto shows willingness to make Pakistanis eat grass to acquire the bomb; is threatened with horrible consequences if he pursues this path, by Dr Kissinger. He does not desist and suffers the horrible consequence. Pakistan seeks financial resources from Islamic countries with nuclear weapon ambitions, in the late 70s and gets it. Endowed with these resources, Dr Khan smuggles nuclear materials from North America and Europe. By the time Ziaul Haq consolidates his power between 1979-83, Pakistan's nuclear engineering, uranium production and enrichment and plutonium acquisition plans with a weapons orientation are well underway. The US-Pakistan nexus to meet the Soviet intrusion into Afghanistan gives a covert impetus to the process. By the end of 1986, Pakistan acquires basic nuclear weapons capacity. Between 1987 and 1989 it reaches a level of nuclear weapons capacity. When I was Ambassador in Pakistan, I was told of General Aslam Beg's notional use of tactical nuclear weapons against India in war games related to the planning of the military exercise "Zarbemomin". General Beg's public statements in 1993-94 about Pakistan's nuclear capacities give credence to this information. Most recent reports from Germany and Russia indicate that Pakistan continues to enhance its nuclear weapons and missile capabilities, overtly where possible, covertly where necessary.

Motivations of Pakistan's going public on its nuclear weapons' capacity are varied. It must be noted that there has been no categorical disclaimer from Ms Benazir Bhutto to Mr Nawaz Sharif s assertions. As far as he is concerned, these are the motivations of domestic politics. To embarrass Ms Bhutto to project the image of being a more decisive leader, and to convey a signal to the armed forces establishment that he will be more supportive of their nuclear ambitions. Not only his August 23 statement, but his subsequent pronouncements in England confirm this assessment.

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Motives for coming out of the closet on nuclear matters are shared by all segments of the Pakistani establishment. These are: to inform everyone about Pakistan's nuclear deterrent capacity, hoping that this will prevent India from taking decisive action against Pakistan's proxy war and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir; to reactivate pressure on India to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]; to make India agree to narrow sub- regional, sub-continental arrangements of nuclear non-proliferation; to curb India's space and missile technology capacities; to emerge as a balancing factor against India in power equations in the sub-continent, in the perception of other South Asian countries.

Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes are part of its stratagem to internationalise the Kashmir issue using the threat of an Indo-Pak nuclear war, to achieve parity with India in military terms, and in international strategic and security perceptions, to ensure UN intervention in bilateral issues and defence policies of India, taking advantage of the activist orientation of the UN over the last three years, and above all, to generate centrifugal pressures on India's defence planning and preparedness.

In an article (Pioneer, September 5) columnist and voice of the Pakistan army establishment and various political parties depending on his inclination and opportunity), Mr Mushahid Hussain wrote, "An India at war within itself is a more comfortable proposition for Pakistan and other smaller countries of South Asia than an India at peace with itself." He went on to affirm that Pakistani support for Khalistan and Kashmir is based on this rationale.

More important is the divisive cogitation which Pakistan's nuclear weaponisation generates among our decision-makers. Should we weaponise or should we not? Should we abandon our space and missile technology programmes or should we not? Should we be part of the discriminatory regimes of the NPT or should we not? These cogitations in themselves prevent fashioning of a cohesive and structured defence policy. This suits Pakistan. Let me add that Mr Mushahid Hussain's hopes for an India at war with itself and related arguments that he has put forward are not mere journalistic advice. These formed part of Ziaul Haq, Ms Benazir Bhutto and Mr Sharif's advocacies to our neighbouring countries over the past decade.

How have we reacted to these? First our nuclear and general defence policy is based on full awareness of all that Pakistan is up to. Second, on all counts we are not giving up our nuclear option, which also means calibrating our missile and nuclear technology to required levels of meeting external threats from Pakistan or other quarters. Third, in consonance with our commitment to non- proliferation and arms and technology control of weapons of mass destruction, we have avoided confrontation with important powers and entered into a series of substantive dialogues with important countries to move forward to the goal of nondiscriminatory disarmament. Fourth, we have made a concrete offer to Pakistan about not using our respective nuclear capacities against each other. While the recent US Congressional research service reports declare India as nuclear weapons capable, they declare Pakistan nearer a nuclear weapons status. Pakistan's armouring its nuclear weapons status only strengthens the entire range of Indian arguments on nuclear issues. In this recently transformed context our capacity to resist discriminatory pressure by the nuclear powers should increase. We would be justified in adopting a more operational approach which need not necessarily mean weaponisation. We should remain firm about developing our space and missile technology.

As far as suggestions about No First Use go, China has unilaterally undertaken this obligation. We have already made a proposal for this to Pakistan which has been refused by it. No sane society or government would ever use weapons of mass destruction against another. To talk to Pakistan, to sustain this sanity, is an unexceptionable proposition.

Keeping one's powder dry to meet aggressive intentions is not ruinous, but necessary. What would be ruinous is a situation where one may have to use these horrendous weapons due to the megalomania of a neighbour. New Delhi has faced the fact of Pakistan having a nuclear bomb for the past decade or so. It is Washington which should now face up to this fact.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Rejects GCC Stand on Islands

NC1909063194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Our Foreign Ministry spokesman has rejected claims in the concluding statement of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers' conference regarding the Iranian islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa as contradictory and a source of amazement.

Speaking to IRNA, Mohammadi said: It is surprising in this statement that the GCC member countries stress security, regional stability, consolidating goodneighborly relations, and solving problems through bilateral talks as well as propounding baseless territorial claims, which only serve to heighten the tension and sow discord in the region.

He added: As has been announced repeatedly, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the only solution to problems and to eliminating misunderstandings between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] is through continuing talks without preconditions.

Our Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed: No country raises the issue of its sovereignty or ownership for discussion; the Islamic Republic of Iran's ownership of

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the Persian Gulf islands is indisputably based on geopolitical realities and international rights.

Spokesman on Bosnia-Herzegovina

NC1909065594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Our Foreign Ministry spokesman described the decision by the contact group of the Western countries and Russia based on the reduction of the UN sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro as being in contravention of the Security Council resolutions and deemed it a kind of reward to extremist Serbs who have repeatedly rejected all peace proposals and resisted the will of the international community.

In an interview with IRNA, Mohammadi said: The decision by the Western countries is being adopted when—despite the repeated demands by international public opinion and countries, including numerous and frequent resolutions of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]—they have refrained from lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina for its own defense. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the policies of the international community should be directed against the Serbs and not in their favor, until the aggression is halted and assistance is provided to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Regarding our country's stance on the recent developments in the Algerian crisis, Mohammadi said: The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the release of the Islamic Salvation Front leaders from prison a positive step in extricating Algeria from a crisis which resulted from ignoring popular will, and welcomes it.

GCC Support for UAE 'Baseless' Stand Viewed

NC1809193594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers held their 52d meeting in the Saudi capital Riyadh yesterday, Saturday. Various issues were discussed at this meeting. [passage omitted]

As usual in these meetings and conferences, the issue of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf was again discussed. Regrettably, the GCC supported yet again the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] baseless stand on this issue. This support came despite past experience, which has proven that such stands only serve the schemes of foreigners seeking to fish in murky waters by creating tension and a lack of trust in the region in order to achieve their objectives.

These developments come at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly declared that it will never relinquish its territorial integrity regardless of the circumstances, but it is willing to hold constructive and direct talks with the UAE in order to reach a solution to this misunderstanding away from the media clamor.

The UAE has not responded to this reasonable call. But the close ties between the two neighboring countries have made them feel that there is no need to pursue some other option, such as referring the issue to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, as the GCC final statement recommended. Still, the GCC foreign ministers stressed their countries' commitment to the principle of improving relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of mutual respect, respect for sovereignty rights, non-interference in internal affairs, avoiding force and threats in international relations, and solving disputes through peaceful means.

The fact is that the commitment of the countries on the southern coast of the Persian Gulf to the principles mentioned in their statement and their commitment to the principle of not relying on foreign forces are bound to create the atmosphere of understanding and mutual trust in the region that Tehran has repeatedly called for. Real peace and lasting security in the Persian Gulf region can only be reached in such an atmosphere.

UAE Urged To Form 'Principled Relations'

LD1609141894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab League, in its session which convened in Cairo as of Wednesday September 14th, once again announced their support for the so called the United Arab Emirates' [UAE's] sovereignty over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

Incoming reports indicate that in their session the Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in a speech, announced the Arab League's support for the so called UAE's efforts to settle the conflict over the said islands. In the meantime he called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to positively respond to the UAE's efforts to settle the issue peacefully.

As far as the statement made by the Arab League secretary general is related to the Irano-UAE relations, it contains two contradictory points: First, he is still speaking of the UAE's baseless claim of sovereingty over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, and at the same time invites the Islamic Republic of Iran to direct talks with the UAE. As the Iranian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly and officially announced: These kinds of stances towards the three Iranian islands is actually the repetition of the UAE's baseless claim, which has no fruit other than discord in the ranks of Muslims. The Arab League's recent stance is rejected and contradictory since it invites Iran to direct talks with the UAE, on the one hand, and calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to be a good neighbor and to

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give up its stance concerning sovereignty over Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs on the other.

Another interesting point is that the Arab League's discord-creating stance is adopted at a time when the attention of the world of Islam is being paid to the Palestine issue and the Zionist regime's conspiratorial plots in the Middle East more than any other issue. From the Islamic Republic of Iran's viewpoint these kinds of stances are not only against the strategic policy and the establishment of neighborly relations among the Persian Gulf countries and strengthening of ties among the Islamic countries, but it is a move aimed at ensuring the foreign powers' interest in the strategic Persian Gulf region.

As the officials of the Iranian Foreign Ministry have repeatedly announced: The repetition of such baseless claims can by no means bring about a change in Iran's sovereingty over the said islands. Nevertheless direct talks with the UAE is an issue which the Islamic Republic of Iran has always welcomed and is called on that country to prove its good intention by holding mutual talks to remove any misunderstanding instead of resorting to a brawl, which bears no fruit other than complicating the situation and causing more problems.

It is well to mention that the UAE, right after the Iran-Iraq war in 1988, claimed sovereignty over the three islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, without any good reason. So far these claims have been useless, except for feeding the affiliated mass media and the countries which seek tension and differences in the Persian Gulf region.

At any rate, in view of the issues mentioned here, it seems that the UAE must show its willingness to establish principled relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran by observing neighborly policy, without propaganda brawls, and by adopting an independent national policy in practice. Positive response to Iran's calls for talks can be considered as the first logical step in this connection.

Agreement in Haiti Said To Expose U.S. Objectives

NC1909075094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] After a few rounds of talks between the U.S. delegation to Haiti led by former President Jimmy Carter and General Raoul Cedras, the commander of the Haitian Armed Forces, the two sides reached an agreement. According to the agreement General Cedras will step down and leave the way open for Aristide to return as president of Haiti.

Political analysts believe that by signing this agreement the Haitian generals have exposed many of the interventionist and destructive objectives of the United States, objectives that were hiddren behind a mask of defending democracy, and have warded off further losses by choosing the lesser evil.

The U.S. experience in Iraq and Panama has proved that it pursues two objectives in its military interference: First, it destroys the economic infrastructure of the countries it attacks so that it can enhance their dependence on other countries. Second, using political means it increases its interference in internal affairs and makes them more dependent on the United States.

By signing this agreement the Haitian militarists have proved that contrary to U.S. allegations, they are even willing to relinquish power to safeguard their country. U.S. conduct in this crisis merits attention: The U.S. negotiators—who claimed that the White House decision to attack Haiti was solely to defend democracy and return Aristide, the elected president of Haiti—insisted, at the last round of talks when the militarists agreed to step down, that U.S. Armed Forces should enter Haiti amicably.

The request raises the question: If the return of Aristide to power is in keeping with democracy, why are the White House representatives insisting on their troops entering Haiti? Most political experts believe that this point can be viewed from two aspects: First, the timeframe for an attack on Haiti is based, primarily, on U.S. domestic needs; the U.S. echelons were optimistic that their adventurism in Haiti could enable them to unite the U.S. public and divert their attention from domestic to foreign issues.

Second, the United States knows that its support for Aristide has greatly reduced his popularity in Haiti, so they believe that his return to power could encounter the people's resistance.

The United States insists on its troops entering Haiti even after reaching an agreement on delegating power and seeks to pave the way for its plan.

U.S. Policy Said 'Cover Up'

LD1809115294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1003 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] While America is intensifying its political and propaganda pressure against the ruling military government in Haiti, some political observers believe that U.S. policy toward this small island in the Caribbean Sea is mixed with ambiguity and confusion.

American officials have on the one hand announced that the countdown has begun for a military attack against Haiti and, on the other, with the dispatch of special envoys to Haiti such as former President Jimmy Carter, Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and retired General Colin Powell,

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the former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, are concentrating on the resolution of the crisis through political negotiation. [passage omitted]

Political analysts believe whatever the nature of the Haitian crisis, a number of issues are worth considering. First of all, that the Haitian crisis is a domestic crisis and a power struggle between two opposing sides in that country that does not necessarily have anything to do with other governments. Second, Americans, following their defeat and disgrace in Somalia, are being tempted to compensate for that political scandal by becoming involved in a new military adventure. Third, the UN has this time shown that it is a tool in the hand of America and a partner in any disgrace caused by the Americans' brutality in the Caribbean. And last, the U.S. and UN intervention in the politically complex Haitian issue has turned a simple domestic problem into a complicated regional crisis so that it can cover up domestic problems confronting the Clinton administration.

'Military Democratization' Viewed

LD1709104194 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 17, IRNA—A morning English-language daily has Saturday said that the more Washington insisted on military democratization programs on people whose cultures and thinkings are different from its own, the more it will be disgraced, invoking them wrath and resentment of the regional people.

Commenting on the probable U.S. military attak on Haiti, the daily "TEHRAN TIMES" in its editorial quoted the U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, as saying that the U.S. attack was based on the U.N. resolution and after carrying out their mission in the Caribbean, the U.S. forces would hand Haiti over to U.N. forces.

"The fact is that, before the U.S.-brokered Security Council resolution was put into effect, the U.S. Government had openly threatend Haiti, with arm-twisting measures, to reinstate the ousted Haiti president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide," argued the paper.

Pointing to the doctrine of the (?U.S.) world order defined by George Bush on the invasion of Kuwait, the daily asked whether it was not time for the U.S. to abandon its new world order.

"After the World War II, however, the U.S. became the policeman and patron of the world, while it wanted to impose democracy all over the world, with aid packages it, in fact, imposed its will."

The daily expressed concern over the fact that the Persian Gulf region has become a good market for the U.S. arms manufacturing factories in order to rescue the U.S. from bankruptcy.

It concluded by saying: "It is ironic that the U.S. now claims to be policing Persian Gulf waters for the sake of our own security. We now even owe the United States for this precious protection."

U.S., UN Credibility Said at Risk

LD1609204794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On Thursday evening, September 15th, the U.S. President Bill Clinton announced that military invasion was the only solution to end the crisis in Haiti. Without referring to the imminent military intervention in Haiti, he said that making such a decision depends on the Haitian Army men's performance.

In the meantime, General Raoul Cedras, the leader of the military government in Haiti, while insisting on his former stance, announced that he would resist against the U.S. military invasion until his last breath. Cedras also said: Presidential elections will be held in this country with his resignation by the end of the current year, but Aristide has no right to take part in these elections.

Political observers believe that Clinton's recent statements is actually a kind of withdrawal from the White House's former stances, for over the past three years—by putting military ruler pressure—has attempted to overthrow them through imposing economic sanctions. [sentence as heard] Nevertheless, the Haitian military rulers' recent proposal on holding election without the presence of Aristide has made the White House face a new problem. For the U.S. statesmen, in justifying their use of military weapons in Haiti, refer to the democratically Aristide and stress the return of democracy to this country in the Caribbean Sea. [sentence as heard]

This is while Clinton's decision on military operations in Haiti has been challenged domestically and internationally in a way that domestically it has become clear that 73 percent of the Americans are against military intervention and the U.S. Congressmen too are opposed to these operations. In its international dimension, despite announcement of support by several European and Latin American countries for military operations in Haiti, the world public opinion is against these operations too. In this relation, some of the political analysts believe that the White House is presently in awkward situation for if it embarks on military action a second Somalia will be probable in view of internal conditions in Haiti, that is the Haitian people's readiness for resistance against the United States. And if the military invasion is delayed, with the Haitian military rulers insistence on their former stance, the credibility of the United States and the UN will be put under a question as the authorization for these operations have been approved by the UN Security Council Resolution 940.

Nevertheless, in view of all these conditions one can say the United States' possible military invasion against Haiti is still there, though the U.S. officials were quoted as saying within the next couple of days an envoy will be sent to Haiti to give an ultimatum to the military rulers in that country.

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Velayati on Tajikistan Cease-Fire Agreement

NC1809074494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati described the cease-fire agreement on Tajikistan signed in Tehran last night as extremely important. The talks between the representatives of the Tajikistan Government and opposition had commenced in Tehran 10 days ago.

In this round of talks, which was attended by the UN special emissary and delegations from Russia and Pakistan, the representatives of the Tajikistan Government and opposition finally signed a temporary cease-fire agreement after prolonged and intensive discussions.

Regarding the importance and outcome of these talks, Dr. Velayati said to our correspondent:

[Begin Velayati recording] These talks were distinctively different compared to those held earlier. One difference was that the highest level of officials who could attend participated in these talks: the second in command in the government in Tajikistan, and the highest level of leaders from the dissident groups who constitute the Islamic front in the opposition. Finally, we achieved results that would not even have been imaginable earlier, that is, success in reaching a cease-fire that should continue until the next elections.

Among the gains of this agreement are the release of political prisoners belonging to the groups opposed to the government, a reciprocal exchange of prisoners who are being held captive by the dissidents, freedom for the people and parties, a UN presence to guarantee the continued implementation of the cease-fire, and maximum freedom in the elections.

In view of the wishes of the two sides and the efforts that were made in order to reach this agreement, we can stress with relative confidence that, God willing, this cease-fire will hold. [end recording]

On the subsequent sessions of the Tajikistan peace talks scheduled to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan, Dr. Velayati said: During this, the third round of talks between the two sides, there will be discussions regarding the timeframe and other issues which will culminate in a permanent peace in Tajikistan.

Velayati, Slovak Deputy Minister Discuss Relations

LD1709182094 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister of Slovakia Dusan Rozbora here Saturday met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Rozbora expressed hope that Velayati would pay a visit to his country at the earliest opportunity in view of the invitation from the Romanian foreign minister.

He said he is in Iran to exchange views on consolidation Tehran-Bratislava relations and to survey international issues.

Rozbora underlined the enormous potentials and facilities of the two countries end expressed hope that bilateral relations would further expand.

He felt confident that his current talks with Iranian officials would lead to strengthening and promotion of bilateral relations in the areas of economy and trade.

Referring to the negative impacts of crisis in [word indistinct] he called as "complex" the situation in the republic and hoped that the tragedy would end through peaceful means as soon as possible.

Velayati in return referred on the historical and traditional relations between Iran and Slovakia before and after the republic decided to split with the former Czechoslovakia Federation, and expressed optimism over development and promotion of bilateral ties.

In view of the two countries potentials especially in the areas of industry and trade, Velayati remarked that the volume of bilateral trade and industrial transactions could be increased.

The two sides also exchange views on the crisis in the Balkans.

Velayati took note of the catastrophic dimensions of the tragedy and its negative impacts on regional states, and said that an end to the aggression and restoration of the legal rights of the oppressed people of Bosnia, would in turn restore stability and tranquility in the region.

Atomic Energy Head Denies U.S. Allegations

LD1709205994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] On the eve of the annual Geneva conference of officials responsible for nuclear organizations from world countries and following the publication of the most recent report by the International Atomic Energy Agency—where the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of atomic energy have been described as peaceful and in the service of economic programs—the head of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, in a propaganda interview, described the study by the UN-affiliated IAEA as worthless and without credit.

In response to this propaganda statement by the American official, the spokesman for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said in an interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency on Saturday: The IAEA is an international specialist organization in the field of atomic energy and its reports are based on scientific studies. Instead of propaganda cries, it would be better if America presented its claimed documented information to the agency.

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He described the American allegations against Iran, regarding atomic energy, as a desperate political act based on no reasoned document, because this claim, as other claims by American officials, have never been true.

Need To Improve Iraqi Relations Seen

NC1909114594 Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 Sep 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Iraq—What Strategy?"]

[Text] According to news agencies, Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati held a press conference during his recent visit to Oman. While describing Iraq's role in the region as important, he said:

"We are hopeful that the economic embargo against the Iraqi people will be lifted. Iran is anxious to eliminate the problems of the Iraqi people and to forge cordial relations within the framework of international norms."

The absence of a clear strategy, in view of Iraq's position in the region, and the failure to realize the importance of the lengthy and permanent border between the two countries has elicited the criticism of most observers in the country and has shown the need for such a strategy to be developed as soon as possible.

The clear statements made by our foreign minister, the stress on the role and importance of Iraq, and the remarks made by the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] in his recent interview on Iraq calling for the improvement of bilateral relations can be considered indications of a new dynamism in eliminating the impediments in the path of relations between the two neighboring countries.

Of course, the problem does not depend on whether we have a clear strategy or not, even though this can be considered an important step that can help us surmount the remaining problems.

Regardless of the views of the Iranian side, the Iraqis should also clarify their position on the subject. The Iraqi regime is certainly aware of the fact that it has a much heavier responsibility to put its eight-year aggression behind it. The Iraqis cannot expect the political moves by Iran's diplomats to gain popular acceptance if they continue to permit the Monafeqin [hypocrites—refers to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] to operate freely in their country and precipitate disasters such as the explosion in the shrine of His Holiness, Imam Reza (peace be upon him).

The Iraqi regime should clearly affirm that it has relinquished its policy of seeking privileges from the West in political games with Iran and will forge relations with Tehran on the basis of a principled policy based on goodneighborliness.

The rumors regarding new moves in relations with the Zionists, which are being heard from Baghdad, are extremely upsetting and could be ascribed to a lack of political stability and a miscalculation on the part of the Iraqi Government.

Turkey's recent efforts that have resulted in the normalization of relations with Iraq indicate the presence of a regional capability for breaking the embargo that the United States and Israel have imposed on Iraq. According to reports, it is the women and children of Iraq who are bearing the brunt of these pressures.

As we are neighbors, we have many plausible reasons for a change in Iraq's regional circumstances, but the inclinations of neighbors such as Pakistan and Turkey and the independent perspectives of countries such as Yemen could lay the foundations for a collective effort for such a development.

While welcoming the latest efforts by our foreign policy officials and with the hope that they will prove fruitful for national security and the interests of our country, it would be worthwhile to mention this subtle point: "If some officials were to focus their attention on the priorities of foreign policy and important regional and international developments and sensitivities instead of on domestic issues, we could develop clearer strategies on relations with our neighbors and the problems of our country would be resolved quicker."

Chair of International News Organization Assumed

LD1809174594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Thanks to efforts of a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the rotational chairmanship of the Asia and Pacific News Agencies Organization was transferred from East Asia to the western part of this continent; Iran is the first country in the western region of Asia to assume the three-year chairmanship of this organization, which begins in 1997 and lasts until the end of the 20th century. [passage omitted]

Student Killed in Bomb Explosion in Central Tehran

LD1709175494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] A relatively powerful percussion bomb exploded in Behdasht alley, Kushk Street, in the vicinity of Ferdowsi Square [central Tehran] at 0740 this morning.

A school student passing through the area was killed as a result of the explosion and windows of surrounding houses were broken, according to our reporter. The percussion bomb was placed under a car next to a three-storey house and as a result the car was destroyed.

An official from the law enforcement forces of greater Tehran said the bomb explosion did not cause much

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damage—only some windows were broken in several buildings and two cars. He added that the cause of the incident is under investigation, the result of which will be announced accordingly.

Suspect Arrested

LD1809145194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The Security Director General of the Interior Ministry announced today: In the wake of yesterday's explosion of a percussion bomb in Kushk street, a suspicious individual was arrested and is being questioned. He added: A student was injured in this incident who was treated as an outpatient.

IRGC Begins Missile Maneuvers in Persian Gulf

LD1909095994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Missile maneuvers by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], codenamed Falaq-2, began in the Persian Gulf waters today.

[Unidentified correspondent] On the eve of Holy Defense Week, the Falaq-2 missile maneuvers began in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman today. During these maneuvers, the latest scientific and technological discoveries, which have contributed to boosting the defense capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran, are being deployed. The maneuvers will continue for three more days. Two attack and logistic battalions of the IRGC's first naval zone are participating. Various sophisticated weapons, including advance shore-to-sea missiles, are used during the maneuvers.

Central Bank Governor Comments on Future Policies

LD1709113594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the new governor of the Central Bank, has been explaining the banks' future policies. He told our correspondent:

[Begin Nurbakhsh recording] A change in the management of the Central Bank will not bring a change in the overall economic policies. However, it aims to provide better services.

Within the framework of these better and more organized services and more appropriate monetary policies, the first step I will take in the banking system, God willing with the help of my colleagues, is to regulate our banking relations with the outside world and foreign banks in such a way that we will be able to establish normal banking ties with other countries, which in turn will help us benefit from normal commercial exchanges. We will try to use an appropriate banking system in order to provide services, particularly in the production and commerce sectors, so that there is little need for referring to unofficial networks and those operating outside the banking system. Here I also deem it necessary to stress that we will definitely not use past methods that did not require foreign currency transfer. We will try to provide more support for bank services that help meet the country's needs, and those who use other methods, one way or another, will be able to see that the banking system can meet their needs.

Among the foremost obligations of the Central Bank are the provision of foreign currency, particularly for non-oil exports. We hope that through proper and constructive relations, which we will establish with exporters, we will be able to further encourage non-oil exports and increase the country's foreign currency income.

On banking services, with the help and efforts of bank staff, I hope to be able to provide conditions that make people feel that when they deal with banks their basic needs are being met. Here I should also refer to one point that I hope to be able to prove in action with the least change in rules and regulations. That is why I would like to stress, once again, that people should not think that a change in the management will change the rules. I think changing of rules is an impeding factor in economic growth and development. [end recording]

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif Accuses Bhutto of 'Humiliating' Army

BK1709110794 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] Lahore—Opposition Leader Mian Nawaz Sharif has once again denied having given any interview to THE WASHINGTON POST and termed it as a conspiracy aimed at maligning Armed Forces of Pakistan and creating misunderstandings between him and the Army.

Talking informally to newsmen at his Model Town residence on Friday afternoon, Mian Nawaz said the Benazir government is humiliating the Armed Forces in a similar manner as had been done by her father. He recalled that late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto having shown the movie of the Fall of Dhaka on PTV [Pakistan Television].

A grim Mian Nawaz labelled Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, her Information Secretary Hussain Haqqani and Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Dr Maleeha Lodhi key players in this malicious campaign against the Army. Said he: "We will be very soon filing a suit against THE WASHINGTON POST in an American Court". What made Mian Nawaz perturbed about the whole affair was the timing of the publication of this "totally fabricated interview". He said it was aimed at destroying

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the image of "our Tehrik-i-Nijat" [Campaign for Deliverance] and this move was similar to his being implicated in the murder of the late Army Chief Gen. Asif Nawaz soon before the last general elections. He said to prove him the killer of Gen. Asif Nawaz his political adversaries had gone to the extent of "disgracing the corpse" of the late Army Chief. This was a reference to exhumation of the body of Gen. Asif nine months after his death to find out "whether he died a natural death or was murdered".

The Opposition Leader regretted that Pakistan Television and other government-controlled media were maligning the Armed Forces more than THE WASHINGTON POST and the rest of the international Press. He also came down hard on the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Ministers for blowing this issue out of all proportions but he specifically targeted Khalid Kharal.

Mian Nawaz said the Information Department had crossed all limits of morality and was getting baseless stories printed in some newspapers on behalf of THE WASHINGTON POST. He said there was a clique of conspirators in Pakistan which was putting the country's sovereignty and reputation at stake.

Anyway the Opposition Leader cautiously appreciated the attitude of the Foreign Office [FO] which expressed satisfaction over Nawaz Sharif's denial of an interview carried by THE WASHINGTON POST. He also referred to the FO's declaring this interview as a part of international conspiracy against Pakistan and its Armed Forces. The Opposition Leader failed to understand that why the PPP men were trying to prove him guilty when he had already denied having given any interview to the aforementioned American daily. He summed up the whole thing as a move to destroy the image of the Opposition's Deliverance Movement.

He said the PPP government had first released maximum advertisements to newspapers to play down the coverage of "our Tehrik and then triggered a new controversy visa-vis this baseless interview with THE WASHINGTON POST to stop the newspapers from analysing our movement".

However, he said such petty tactics could not guarantee the survival of the Benazir Government as the people had now stood up to rid themselves of these usurpers. He hoped that his call for a countrywide strike on August 20 will be positively responded by all sections of the society.

Mian Mohammad Nawaz coincided his talk by declaring Benazir Bhutto as security risk for Pakistan and called upon his countrymen to support him in his struggle against her. (Benazir).

Spokesman Says Nawaz Sharif Interview Confirmed

BK1709163894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said in Islamabad that THE WASHINGTON POST has confirmed to the Pakistan Embassy in Washington that the interview with the opposition leader, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, took place in Lahore on 18 May this year and the daily stood by its story. Referring to a question about the inquiry held into the story of the daily regarding interview with Mr. Nawaz Sharif, the spokesman further stated that a correspondent of the paper based in New Delhi, Mr. John Ward Anderson, and a Pakistani stringer and co-author of the story, Mr. Kamran Khan, were authorized to speak on behalf of the paper regarding the story. Mr. Anderson had also told the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi that he stood by the story and that the interview was conducted by Mr. Kamran Khan, who issued a statement confirming the interview and providing details of the circumstances in which the interview was conducted.

The Foreign Office spokesman further said that the fact that the interview did take place has been established. It was, however, clear from THE WASHINGTON POST's early story and the spokesman's earlier statement that there was no truth to the preposterous allegations that had been made in the interview.

Nawaz Sharif Sues U.S. Daily

BK1909022394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] On behalf of the opposition leader, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, an advocate of the Supreme Court, Mr. Mohammad Akram Sheikh, has served legal notices to the daily WASHINGTON POST, its two reporters, and its copy management for the statement attributed to him in the interview which he has denied to have given on the 16th of May this year. The notices called upon the paper to immediately publish denial of his client together with apology and pay damages amounting to $100 million to his client.

U.S. Urged To Go Beyond 'Mere Rhetoric'

BK1709104694 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Sep 94 p 7

[Editorial: "Qualified Peace"]

[Text] The US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Ms. Robin Raphel, who has a strong grasp of the Indo-Pak tangle over Kashmir, has warned with timely foresight of the dangers inherent in the now tense regional situation. She qualified the threat with the two nations continuing to feverishly develop their nuclear weapons and missile capability. Her ominous warning left unsaid an obvious fact that the final conflict—fourth chronologically—could be a nuclear Armageddon. Such a statement can be seen as a worst-case scenario given the recent bellicosity of the Indian Prime Minister, who spoke about marching into Azad Kashmir much like one who talks about going on a pleasure trip. It is doubtful that it was merely meant for domestic consumption, as

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the Indian-occupied part of the disputed state is increasingly becoming an Achille's heel of that country. The insurrection by the Kashmiris is slowly graduating to a level where it would no longer be manageable.

The American functionary must have correctly read the straws in the winds to speak with an element of high concern at the University of Nebraska about the situation in South Asia. It will be welcomed in this region, where there are leaders who are beginning to find that there is life beyond the jingoism that is associated with the till now stultified Indo-Pak relations. But Ms. Raphel is not the only American leader who senses imminent danger. The US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott, has made a similar assessment. Even President Bill Clinton found it possible to edgewise squeeze in a reference to Kashmir in one of his many speeches. This implies that, in spite of what appears as utter indifference in Washington, there is concern over Kashmir, sadly not over its human aspect, but the related probability of it resulting in the use of nuclear weapons—the second time in half a century.

Pakistan cannot do anything to correct the US perspective on Kashmir. Its leaders hardly find time from their exhausting task of explaining to the American watchdogs about the nuclear programme, the missile issue, terrorism, or whatever else the CIA can conjure up. But this should not obscure the irrevocable premise that even if the Americans are so deeply worried about the peril of a nuclear blow-up in South Asia, rather than the issues of human and national rights, they should go beyond the level of mere rhetoric. Their bleeding-heart approach does well to give a proper colouring to the sense of concern that is found in Washington, but it does not solve the problem. Moreover what is all the more regrettable about this attitude is that it has resulted solely from nuclear fears. Had India and Pakistan not acquired the forbidden knowledge, the Americans would have least worried even if this fecund region had become a highly magnified version of Afghanistan, Rwanda and Bosnia combined. The rationale that one draws is that even peace has its qualifications in American thinking. A threat must come packaged in the familiar mushroom shape to sound the alarm bells in Washington.

U.S. Refusal of Visa for Shiite Leader Criticized

BK1809094794 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Refusal To Display Diplomatic Decency"]

[Text] The United States denial of a visa to the chief of the Tehrik-i-Jafariya Pakistan [TJP] points to a calculated policy on the part of Washington to discriminate against all members of Shia community. With the United States conditions for a visa already disgustingly biased against the people of the Third Word the refusal of visas to Allama Sajid Naqvi and other leaders of the TJP proves—if a proof was at all needed—that the United States has now decided to add sectarian bias to the plethora of prejudices it already has.

The anti-Islam attitude of the US has never been a secret but the relatively higher prejudice against Shias has become more pronounced in the wake of the Islamic revolution in Iran. It is the prerogative of any country to grant or refuse visa to any applicant. All the same, it is seldom that any country declines entry to political leaders of other nations, whether they are on official or unofficial tours. Unfortunately the US mission in Pakistan has arrogantly refused to show even this diplomatic decency which almost every civilised nation of the world feels proud of.

The United States consular offices in Pakistan have not disclosed the grounds of their refusal to allow the TJP leaders to visit the US to attend seminars and meetings on Seeratun Nabi [Life of the Prophet]. The only reason seems to be that Washington identifies all Shias of the world with Iran's revolution. This attitude seems based on the assumption that all political leaders sympathetic to Iran and all Shias who can be identified have been branded terrorists. If so, the US must clearly announce that policy and save itself as also the applicants unnecessary effort. But in this matter, honesty and straightforwardness could be anathema to a government which flaunts its bad manners in asking all tourist visa applicants to disprove the assumption that they intend to immigrate to the US. Let's hope that the United States has not assumed that the leaders of the TJP intended to immigrate to the US. For a nation, which so frequently gives in to irrationalities, arriving at such a conclusion is not impossible. Having decided to refuse visas to sympathisers of Iran and all members of the Shia community, the US should add a column to its visa form explicitly asking the applicants to declare their political affiliation as also their sect; just like they did it in the case of members of the communist organisations.

Overt Support for Kashmiri Independence Urged

BK1609133794 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 14 Sep 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Kashmir—the Need for a Clear-Cut Strategy"]

[Text] During a meeting in Tehran, President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari briefed Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the deteriorating situation in Kashmir and said that the Kashmir problem poses a threat to peace in the South Asian region. President Leghari justifiably termed the Kashmir problem a threat to regional peace. It is a fact that Kashmir is one of the world's hot spots; not only has it caused wars in the past, but the situation is getting worse there every day. Viewed in this context, the Kashmir dispute is very dangerous. Kashmir is occupied by a country from this region that has embarked on military adventures against Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Maldives. That country is maintaining its hold on Kashmir through the strength of its military machinery; otherwise it has no legal or moral authority in the territory.

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The serious aspect of this dispute is that genocide is being carried out against the Muslims of Kashmir in a manner and on a scale similar to that of the Nazis. Because Jews were the victims of the Nazi operation, the Western countries that dominate the United Nations set up a war crimes tribunal and punished the criminals. In Kashmir, however, the genocide is directed against Muslims. That is why countries with a Christian mentality emphasize resolving the Kashmir issue through negotiations, despite the fact that the very country that is occupying Kashmir has previously agreed at the United Nations to grant the Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

As far as the holding of negotiations is concerned, India has never responded positively to any Pakistani effort in this regard. It persistently claims that Kashmir is an integral part of India. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has now crossed even that limit and has most daringly said that they will attack Azad Kashmir. India has a lengthy record of arrogance. What is unfortunate is that the Security Council members that enjoy veto power either overtly or covertly support or patronize India; the Soviet Union actually used its veto on the Kashmir issue. For some time now the Clinton administration in the United States has been taking an interest in the Kashmir issue. After issuing several statements in favor of Pakistan, however, it did not find it appropriate to antagonize India and once again started talking about negotiations. The United States wants to solve the Kashmir issue in such a way that it can acquire a base in the region from where it can control the entire region, including China.

As far as the United Nations is concerned, it can be said irrefutably that its role does not conform to the situation in Kashmir. India has called the UN resolutions obsolete at the very forum where they were adopted. The UN secretary general has in the past expressed his inability to resolve the Kashmir issue. When he visited Pakistan a few days ago, he did not say anything concrete and emphasized only mediation. The United Kingdom, a permanent member of the Security Council, has offered to mediate a number of times, but this has remained confined to verbal statements. The United Nations has not taken any concrete steps on the Kashmir issue. Despite being aware of the Indian troops' atrocities, the United States—the human right champion—is pampering the Narasimha Rao government. So the Pakistani Government should formulate its own strategy.

The Kashmir issue was raised at the Islamic foreign ministers conference. Unless the Islamic world speaks collectively with India in clear-cut terms, though, mediation efforts will yield the same results they have produced so far. It is necessary for steps to be taken beyond extending mere moral support to the Kashmiris. India only understands the language of force. Holding negotiations means giving it more time.

There is a silent understanding between India and the Western countries. U.S. Ambassador to India Frank Wisner said in a statement that a plebiscite is not the only solution in Kashmir. An election is a device to ascertain the views of the people there. The Kashmiris, however, are only demanding their right to self-determination; they are not going to be satisfied with anything less. In view of the pro-Indian line adopted by the Western countries, we are left with only one option—to help the Kashmiris openly. Independence from India is not just a question of life and death for the Kashmiris—the existence of Pakistan itself hinges on the independence of Kashmir.

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